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It is daily becoming more evident that all classes of the community, realising the hopelessness of relying upon the politician to extricate us from our present difficulties, are looking to the digger to come forward and save the country again as he did during the war years. This attitude is extremely flattering to the R.S.L. and the ideals for which it stands. However, certain suggestions have been made which are based on misconceptions of the spirit of the League's constitution, and the spirit of the digger himself. In view of this, the declaration of faith made by the State President, and the consequent resolution passed by the Executive on March 18, are timely reminders to all concerned that the bigger, exaggerated war stories to the contrary notwithstanding, is not and never was the turbulent person who got his own way by unconstitutional means; and that the constitution of the organisation he has formed enjoins upon him the duty of supporting and maintaining the constitution of that larger organisation, the Commonwealth of Australia.

It is only natural that in times like the present the inaction and ineptitude of those who are supposed to be governing the country should cause much irritation and impatience. It is natural, too, that men will welcome any scheme, however desperate, which professes to remedy the situation. Secessions and similar moonbeams from the larger lunacy have been flashed temptingly before the eyes of the League, and attempts have been made to commit it to lines of action which are merely symptoms of political insanity. It would be a fine thing, indeed, if we could march, Cromwell-like, into the Federal Government and order someone to "Take away that bauble," but direct action is never as simple as it sounds. Even Cromwell had to restore the forms at least of parliamentary institutions. Like a democracy, a dictatorship can thrive only under the guidance of the strong. It is when the noisy little men replace the strong leaders that the institution, whether it be an autocracy or a democracy, crumbles into decay. Again, the Platonic ideal of government by a committee of philosophers is an ideal scheme—literally ideal, for it could not exist in actuality. Supermen, unfortunately, are not born in every generation. Among those supporting the various fanciful schemes which have been proposed we can see no Cromwell nor Mussolini, though there are many Barnaby Ridges.

At the present juncture the League must—safeguard itself against being exploited, consciously or otherwise, by the kindlers of various Will-o' the-Wisps which, when they have not spluttered out quickly, have led organisations to muddy endings, in other places. At present we think that we, as an organisation, should regard ourselves as holding a watching brief on behalf of the community. At the same time, individual members should take an active part in public affairs, and pull their weight in the organisations of whatever brand of politics they favour. While the digger thinks for himself and ignores the noisy old women of both sexes, who presume to tell him how—he should think, while he applies his energies to the successful administration of the shows to which he belongs, whether they be sub-branches or political bodies, instead of standing aside to "let George do it," he is going to exert a leavening effect in public affairs which must make for the betterment of present conditions. From the point of view of figures alone we should be able to control three-quarters of a million of votes. There was an historic occasion when five righteous men would have saved a city, and there are sufficient of our five of thousands to save the country. We will not do this by forming new parties, which must eventually become the old parties under new names. Rather let us reform the existing parties from within—and there are enough of us in every political camp to do it—for only by such a procedure can we ensure that the best men available shall represent us in our legislatures, and so give Australia that honesty in administration and that dignity in world politics which her status demands. Neither should this work of political re-vitalisation fall on the shoulders of the digger alone. The civilian must bear his share of the burden also, but the digger must set the example.

The Attack on War Pensions

There are in this country many individuals, especially those who are always to be found in the anti-British camp and within the forces which make for disruption, who have long cast envious and even hostile eyes upon the pensions of ex-service men. So far, no one has taken such people very seriously; it has been considered that the League is well able to counter their machinations and to look after the interests of the digger in this as well as in other particulars.

It must be confessed that men who served through the Great War have been treated more liberally by their respective governments than combatants of previous wars. In almost every belligerent country the tendency has been to increase rather than to diminish the soldiers' pensions. The establishment of such bodies as the Appeal Board and the Assessment Tribunal in Australia have not only made for a more liberal interpretation of the existing regulations, but they have brought men within the scope
of the pensions scheme who, otherwise, might have been sadly neglected. The Canadian scheme is also a very liberal one, while the United States Congress has passed a Bill, over the veto of President Hoover, who is so extravagantly liberal, in its application as to make the soldier look rather grasping. Yet both these countries, like ourselves, are faced with budget deficits. That of the United States, according to the Overseas Daily Mail of February 21, is estimated at £100,000,000; that of Canada £15,000,000, as against our own, £12,000,000.

It would be interesting to learn the source of the special attacks being made on war pensions.

It has been consistently stated and inferred that the expenditure on war pensions has exceeded all expectations. This is not so. For the past ten years it has been made known to the public that the peak would be reached in 1931, when the expenditure would be in the vicinity of £8,000,000.

There is no doubt that many men are in receipt of pensions, who could exist comfortably without them; but the fundamental basis of the Pensions Act is that a pension shall be granted as a compensation for injuries received as a result of war service and not as a hole for indigent diggers. Mr. Cerutty, the Auditor-General, who believes that he has unearthed many glaring cases which disclose extreme liberality to certain ex-service men, has closed his eyes to this fact. Anyhow, because a man is well and efficient enough to earn good wages to-day is no guarantee that his war injuries are not going to incapacitate him to-morrow to the extent of reducing his earnings perhaps to nothing.

An article recently appeared in one of our daily papers, the writer of which was obviously ignorant of his subject. One particularly inaccurate statement among many was "that the principle of financial disability is the main factor in assessing war pensions."

Another suggestion receiving support is that pensions should be reduced in proportion to the fall in the cost of living. The present standard of pension rates was laid down in 1920, when the cost of living was much lower than it is to-day. These rates did not increase with the tremendous advance in the cost of living which occurred in the following ten years.

Much is being made of the fact that there are men drawing pensions who did not engage in front-line fighting, but surely it cannot be considered unreasonable to compensate a man who was injured in transit to the war areas, or a widow whose husband died from meningitis at Blackboy?

Many foolish statements are also promulgated regarding individuals who are drawing pensions and have "nothing wrong with them." Don't believe it! We are in a position to know that few, if any, war service pensioners are fit. Certainly not as many as the men who are unfit as the result of their war service, and who have never applied for pensions.

We have not the space available to engage in replying to further criticisms, but may do so in a later issue. The Prime Minister has informed Parliament that the Government has no intention of reducing pensions. We are convinced, however, that if the times demand sacrifices, the soldier is patriotic enough to shoulder the burden of sacrifice along with the rest of the community; but the best and most enduring reforms are those that come from within. The League should stand firm on questions of principle, and insist on every case being judged accordingly. Before laying down any scale of reductions, many existing anomalies, which we could enumerate, should be removed. A big saving would then result without being unfair or unjust to any individual.

The soldier and his dependants made big sacrifices during the years 1914-18, and we would with all sincerity ask those more or less secret and unknown individuals who are trying to force down pensions if they would change places physically with the men who have lost limbs, the T.B. soldiers, the blind, and those who are mentally sick, or any other pensioner, for twice the pension received.

The last economies of the community to be effected should be those affecting those who, being injured in defence of their country, have already made great sacrifices.

Empire Shopping Week

The Empire Trading and Shopping Council, on which the League has representation, has already commenced to organise for this year's shopping week, which will commence on May 24th. The objectives of the Council are to bring the citizens to a realisation that in all purchases the following order of preference should apply:—Firstly, goods manufactured within the State; secondly, goods made in the Commonwealth; and thirdly, at all times to buy Empire goods.

In view of the present economic situation, it is recognised that imports from other parts of the Empire are small, so the Council will this year concentrate its efforts on its first objective, and thus assist the Empire movement by building up this particular section of the Empire. It is also desired to keep the Empire buying sentiment alive, for the time may soon come when the flow of imports will rapidly increase. Furthermore, it was considered that the present was not the
time to slacken effort in the desired direction.

The R.S.L. has been the backbone of this movement within this State for the past two years, and it is expected that sub-branches will begin to organise for it immediately. The Council has recently taken delivery of 5,000 beautiful posters from the Empire Marketing Board, which will be distributed throughout the State early in May, together with a number of local posters. The R.S.L. delegates on the Council, are Messrs. H. E. Wells, M.L.A., and E. S. Watt, who will be pleased to give further information.

Mining and Prospecting
LEAGUE COMMITTEE FORMED

Messrs. Olden (chairman), Watt, Denton, Tyler and Longmore are the executive committee formed “to assist those returned soldiers already engaged in the mining industry, as well as those who desire to engage, and to obtain all possible assistance for organised parties under experienced leadership, from the Government and elsewhere.”

The objective is to encourage unemployed returned soldiers who desire to go prospecting to register with the State Executive office and to supply particulars as to their experience, financial position, pension (if any), age, state of health, and dependants.

The committee is not in a position to grant financial assistance, and it is realised that there is little, if any, money available by the Government for this form of help, but it is hoped to persuade the Government to divert some of the money now being paid in sustenance to the unemployed for this purpose, and efforts are being made in this direction. Many unemployed men have already signed their desire to participate in the prospecting scheme and are willing to have their sustenance allowance applied for this purpose.

Mr. R. N. King, the deputy Premier of Queensland, who was recently in Perth, informed the press “that the Queensland Government has also taken steps to encourage the gold mining industry, both single and married men being urged to undertake prospecting. The single men were paid 30/- per week, and the married men 50/- per week.”

So far, our State is assisting prospectors with tools, equipment and rail passes, but surely the Government must eventually recognise that it would be preferable to give those unemployed men who desire it a chance to do something useful, and very likely profitable, to having their manhood sapped through continued idleness. The League’s organisation is at the Government’s disposal in this matter, and it is to be hoped that the Government will co-operate in the desired direction for the general good before much more valuable time is lost.

Anzac Day

Sub-branches throughout the State are organising to make Anzac Day, 1931, the biggest, best and most impressive yet held. Wherever possible the speakers for the day will be returned men and the subject matter will be both commemorative and national. The plain but intensely impressive “service at dawn” at the local memorial is now becoming a State-wide institution. Ex-service men and women throughout the State are urged to “fall in” wearing their medals, and proudly march with their comrades of the great strife “in memory.”

Preservation of Individual War Memories

At the last State Congress the Press Sub-Branch secured the approval of delegates to a resolution aiming at the preservation, before it is too late, of war diaries, and memories of the war in word and picture. The Press Sub-Branch have been asked by the State Executive to take this matter in hand, to which they have agreed, so all diggers who can assist are asked to send their contribution to the Hon. Secretary of the Sub-Branch, Mr. Ivor Birtwistle, of Western Mail, Perth. It is anticipated that after assembling, the material will be placed in the public library for preservation.

The official history of the war is being written, and other books, such as unit histories, have been published, but every man or woman who saw active service in the greatest drama of tragedy of all time has many outstanding memories, singular to themselves, which are of sufficient human interest to warrant preservation.

Write them up and send them in, and don’t allow lack of literary style to prevent you. It may be possible in the future to publish an interesting book from extracts of the material contributed, but this would not be done without the consent of the individual contributors.

Manager (interviewing new boy):
I suppose you’re anxious to get on?
Applicant: “Yessir.”
Manager: “And I suppose you know the only sure way of doing that?”
Applicant: “Yessir — marry the boss’ daughter.”
The statement that Richmond is 100 per cent. pure means that Richmond contains only pure malt, hops, yeast, and sugar without the addition of chemicals or preservatives of any kind. That is why there are no unpleasant after effects when you drink Richmond, and that is why Western Australia, as Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, did before it, has given Richmond an enthusiastic reception that is nothing short of sensational.

The Listening Post  March 27, 1931

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State Executive Meetings

4th March, 1931


An apology was received from Mr. H. E. Wells, M.L.A.

Anzac Day Committee.—It was agreed that Rabbi, Freedman be added to the Anzac Day Committee, vice the Rev. E. H. O. Bye, resigned.

Reports.—Medical Attention, Ward 11: The Secretary submitted a report in connection with the complaint received that sufficient medical attention is not provided in Ward 11 in the out-patients’ department of the Perth Hospital. The report indicated that the position was now quite satisfactory. The report was received.

State Secretary read his report for the previous fortnight. Report received.

Finance Committee.—The report of the Finance Committee meeting held on the 2nd March was received and adopted.

Land Committee.—Mr. Yeates submitted a report of the Land Committee meeting held on the 2nd March, and also on his trip to the South-West.

House Committee.—The report of the House Committee meeting held on the 21st February was received and adopted.

Anzac Day Committee.—On the recommendation of the Anzac Day Committee, it was agreed that the same policy circular, as last year be forwarded to sub-branches.

Poppy Day Committee.—The report of the meeting of representatives of the metropolitan sub-branches in connection with Poppy Day was submitted by Mr. Tozer. The recommendation agreed to was as follows:—That so far as metropolitan sub-branches are concerned, all unsold poppies should be handed back to the Executive for safe keeping and again distributed to sub-branches with their further orders at 5 p.m. on the day prior to Poppy Day.

A further, recommendation was agreed to as follows:—That to enable local manufacturers to tender for the manufacture of poppies and wreaths, quotes be called for this State’s supplies through the press before the end of March.

Soldier Organisations: Affiliation.—The State President submitted a report on this matter, which was received.

Broadcasting Committee.—Mr. C. P. Smith submitted a report on behalf of this committee, and detailed the proposed arrangements for the broadcasting of a smoke social from 6 W.F. The report was received and adopted, and Mr. C. P. Smith was appointed as chairman to conduct the proceedings.

Lemnos Hospital.—The report of the Lemnos Hospital Visiting Committee was received.

Womens’ Auxiliary State Executive.—The Secretary submitted a report of the activities of this Auxiliary. That portion of the report dealing with Anzac Day was referred to the Anzac Day Committee.

Miners and Prospecting Committee.—Colonel Olden read the report of the initial meeting of this committee, whose function would be to assist those already engaged in mining, as well as those who desire to engage, it being clearly understood that no financial assistance can be provided.

The report was received and adopted.

Relief Funds.—The report of the R.S.I. Relief Fund for the month of February was received. The question of the provision of clothing for those in need was discussed, and it was moved by Mr. Watt, seconded by Mr. Philp, that the Trustees cause inquiries to be made in this connection and report to next meeting of the Executive.

Employment Bureau.—A report of the operations of the Employment Bureau for the month of February was received.

Southern Cross.—Mr. Nugent submitted a report on his visit to Southern Cross. Notice of Motion: Reading Room: Moved by Mr. Edmunds, seconded by Col. Margolin, that that portion of the minutes referring to the closing of the Reading Room be rescinded and the room be open for reading or writing only, and that no cards or games be allowed therein. Lost.

Federal Correspondence.—Correspondence was received from the Federal Executive as follows:—(a) Pensions; (b) Restriction of Aliens; (c) Exchange on Insurance, W.S.I.; (d) Pugwash of already erected W.S.I.; (e) Unfavourable locality, W.S.I.; (f) Transfer from rent purchase system; (g) Resolution 6/1 W.S.I.; (h) Employment Grant; (i) Preference, Australian grown timbers; (j) Mr. S. J. Hales.—Corrapun: Referred to Management Committee.

Fred. Hawthorn: Referred to Management Committee.

Sub-Branch Officers.—Appointments were confirmed as follows:—Mr. Hawthorn, Baywater, and Wagin.

Annual Report.—The annual report of the Mt. Hawthorn Sub-branch was received.

Soldiers’ Institute.—The Maylands Sub-branch asked the Executive to take the necessary steps to keep undesirables out of the Institute at all times.

Pensions.—The Mundaring Sub-branch forwarded their views on any proposed reduction of pensions. The reply was left in the hands of the State Secretary.

A communication was also received from the Partially Blind Soldiers’ Association of Queensland, in this connection.

Hospital, Patients.—The Subiaco Sub-branch suggested that arrangements should be made for the Liverpool Post to publish the names of all ex-soldiers in the Repatriation Ward or other military hospitals. The reply was left to the State Secretary, and he was instructed to inform the Subiaco Sub-branch, that in the opinion of the Executive this was not practicable.

District Committees.—Arising out of resolution 40 of the late State Congress, the suggested alterations to the existing boundaries of District Committees as laid down in the Constitution were submitted. It was agreed that in accordance with the resolution it be circulated amongst sub-branches for their approval or otherwise.

Soldier Settlement.—The South Coastal District Committee requested information in this connection. A reply was left to the State Secretary.

Broadcasting.—Gosnells Sub-branch submitted the suggestion that names of ex-soldiers in the Repatriation Wards should be broadcast. The letter was received.

State War Memorial.—A letter from Sir William Lathlain concerning the flood-lighting costs of the State War Memorial was referred to those members of the Executive who are representatives on the State War Memorial Committee.

W.A. W.F.—A communication from the Bunbury Sub-branch in this regard was referred to the Land Committee.

Unfinancial Members.—The request as to ways and means of keeping members financial who are unable to pay subscriptions was received from...
the Bunbury Sub-branch, and the reply left to the State Secretary.

Soldiers' Funerals.—A communication from the Victoria Park Sub-branch in this connection was received.

Art Unions.—The Victoria Park Sub-branch advised that they supported the Executive in their attitude on art unions. A similar letter was received from the North Perth Sub-branch.

Unemployment Subsistence.—Aising from a query from the North Perth Sub-branch, the Secretary was instructed to advise them of the present position regarding subsistence and pensions.

Federal Presidency.—The South Australian Branch asked if there would be any objection to the circulation amongst State Branches of the State President's recent communication to the Federal President. It was agreed to inform S.A. that the matter is left to their discretion.

18th March, 1931


Leave was granted to Messrs. C. P. Smith and H. E. Wells, who are absent in the Eastern States.

No. 4 District Committee.—As a matter of urgency, the Secretary brought forward the minutes of this Committee, which were referred to the Land Committee.

Reports.—The State Secretary read his report for the previous fortnight. He sought a ruling on the question of war widows, pensions, and employment. The matter was referred to the Presidents and Unemployment Committee for consideration and recommendation.

 Finance Committee.—The report of the Finance Committee meeting, held on the 16th March, was received.

 House Committee.—Report of the House Committee meeting, held on the 11th March, was received and adopted.

Trustees.—The Trustees reported in connection with an appeal made for second-hand clothing, and owing to the lack of response sought authority of the Executive to convene a meeting of the metropolitan sub-branches to discuss this matter.

Prospecting Committee.—Colonel Olden submitted the report of the Prospecting Committee, and stated that efforts were still being made to induce the Minister concerned to receive a deputation.—Report received.

Anzac Day Committee.—The report stated that the Committee had met representatives of the W.A. Presbyterian Assembly, who expressed their views concerning the commemoration of Anzac Day, and their desire to be associated in every way with the proceedings. The Committee pointed out that they appreciated the great value of the assistance offered by the members of the deputation, but considered it unwise to depart from the policy and form of service approved last year, and again recently promulgated. On the motion of Mr., Edmonds, seconded by Colonel Margolin, the recommendation was endorsed.

Lemnos Board of Visitors.—The report of the Lemnos Board of Visitors was laid on the table for the information of members.

Management Committee.—Empire Trading and Shopping Council: The Committee recommended that Messrs. Watt and Wells be again appointed to represent the State on this Council. This was agreed to. Invocation, Quairading.—It was agreed that the President and Secretary attend.

Visits.—Spearwood Sub-Branch: The State President reported having visited Spearwood Sub-Branch on the occasion of the opening of the hall.

South West.—Colonel Denton reported having visited Pemberton, Manjimup, and Bridgetown sub-branches in company with the State Secretary.

Karlgarin.—Mr. Birtwistle reported having visited the Karlgarin Sub-Branch in company with Mr. Farquharson.

No. 11 Ward.—Mr. Panton reported on visits to this ward, and stated that, in connection with recent requests that names of inmates be published and broadcast, the patients concerned did not desire such action.

Claremont-Cottesloe.—Mr. Tozer reported having visited the Claremont-Cottesloe Sub-Branch.

Economic Federation.—Mr. Philip moved, and Mr. Tyler seconded: That the Executive Committee take into consideration the question of effecting economies in respect to League expenditure, and submitted a report to the Executive furnishing information as to income and expenditure since the commencement of the financial year.—Carried.

Federal Correspondence.—Communications were received from the Federal Executive on the following subjects:—

(a) 1931 Biennial Conference.
(b) Federal Executive meeting.
(c) Accuracy War Films.
(d) Membership Drive—N.S.W. (laid on the table).
(e) Preference to R.S. Chemistry.
(f) Export of Eggs (copy to Poultry and D.F. Branch).
(g) New Year Greetings—B.E.S.L. (laid on the table).
(h) Federal Capital Territory Branch (laid on the table).

Invitation.—Perth Sub-Branch Lectures, March 4th. As many delegates as possible to attend.

Sub-Branch Election of Officers.—Appointments in the following sub-branches were confirmed:—Kalgoorlie, Wickepin, Coolup, No. 4 D.C.

New Sub-Branches.—Formation of new sub-branches as follows was approved:—Derby (to be known as Kimberley), and Moorine Rock.

Blood and Bone.—The Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch considered the price of this fertiliser too high, and the reply was left in the hands of the State Secretary.

Anzac Day.—The Bunbury Sub-Branch wrote requesting permission to commemorate Anzac Day on Sunday, 26th, at Saturday was a late shopping night in that town.

Moved by Colonel Denton, seconded by Mr. Farquharson: That the sub-branch be informed that the day must be observed on the 23rd as already laid down by Federal and State Congresess.—Carried.

Commonwealth Health Laboratory.—The Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch requested representations to be made to the Federal Executive concerning the charge for examination by this laboratory, and also their suggestions in connection with an appeal board. It was agreed to support this sub-branch in their request.

Economic Conditions.—Reported elsewhere in this issue.

Citizens' Federation.—The Citizens' Federation advised that they intended calling a conference of all interested societies on the question of the prevailing conditions, and asked the League to appoint a delegate. It was agreed to advise the Federation in the terms of the resolution carried above.

Unemployed Members.—The Midland Junction Sub-Branch asked what the Executive was prepared to do to maintain the membership of unemployed members. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Management Committee for report to the next meeting.

Annual Smoke Social.—Mr. Hawthorn.—This sub-branch wrote on the question of the printing of tickets for their smoke social, stating their position, and Mr. Panton further explained. The
letter and explanation were received.

Cases of Distress.—A case of distress was submitted by the West Leederville Sub-Branch, and it was decided to convey the Executive's regrets that it could not see in what way any action could be taken.

Victoria Park Sub-Branch requested that an advocate should be appointed to assist cases of ex-soldiers who wished to approach the Distressed Tenants' Court. It was decided to advise the Victoria Park Sub-Branch that the matter was before the Attorney-General, and the Executive is governed by what action he takes.

Fertiliser.—A letter from the Fremantle Sub-Branch was received on this subject.

Contract for Surgical Boots.—The Mt. Hawthorn Sub-Branch protested against the delay of the Repatriation Commission in finalising tenders for this contract. It was agreed that the necessary protest be forwarded by the State Secretary.

The Haley Case

LEAGUE'S COMPLAINT JUSTIFIED

The following communication was recently received from the Secretary to the Minister for Repatriation:

"I am directed by the Minister for Health and Repatriation, the Hon. F. Anstey, to inform you that he is now in a position to give a decision re the matters concerning the death of S. J. Haley, of Western Australia.

"The Minister, after thorough investigation, believes that there is no blame to be attached to the Medical Officers of the Repatriation Commission, Western Australia, as all the evidence goes to show that they acted with reasonable medical promptitude upon receipt of advice.

"Concerning the second matter of the divergent opinions as to the time your League brought Haley's case to the notice of the West Australian authorities, the

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Transfer from Rent Purchase System of War Service Homes

Hereunder is a copy of letter received by the League from the Acting Minister for Transport:-

"I am in receipt of yours of the 4th instant, conveying Resolution No. 61, adopted at the 15th Annual Congress of your League, which reads as under:-

'That representations be made to the Commission for the creation of the optional right of a soldier occupier to transfer from the Rent Purchase System to the Commission's Mortgage System any time after payment of 10 per cent. of the value.'

"An applicant who has available a deposit of 10 per cent. of the capital cost of the home, either by way of cash, ownership in land, or both, may obtain a loan under the Advance on Mortgage System, the title being placed in his name and a mortgage given by him to the Commission to secure the amount of the loan. Where the deposit is less than 10 per cent., the loan is made under the Rent Purchase System, the title being in the name of the Commission, and the property being sold to the applicant under a Contract of Sale. In the latter case when the repayments of loan amount to 20 per cent. of the capital cost, the purchaser has the right to convert to the Advance on Mortgage System. By the time a purchaser has repaid 20 per cent. of the loan, a mortgagor would have an equity of at least 20 per cent., and if the proposal were put into operation, a purchaser would obtain a greater advantage over a mortgagor than at the present time. At the same time it must not be overlooked that at the time a purchaser has repaid 10 per cent. of the loan there would not be a margin of 10 per cent. for the reason that during the period of repayment depreciation of the home would have occurred. The provisions in the Act at present are equitable, and were only adopted after very careful consideration."

Censorship of War Films

At the last Federal Congress of the League a resolution was carried asking for a more rigid censorship of war films, particularly those of foreign origin. The following reply has been received from the Secretary, Prime Minister's Department:

"It is pointed out by the Department of Trade and Customs that films are produced primarily for purposes of entertainment and that probably no film dealing with historical subjects accurately portrays such events. As with novelists, film producers are more interested in the entertainment value of their products than with the accuracy of the theme or scenes depicted, and the public is generally aware of this fact. The view is taken that it would be inequitable to refuse registration of a film solely for the reason that it deals with an event without exact regard to historical accuracy.

"Attention is invited to the fact that two members of the Commonwealth Film Censorship Board are returned soldiers, and these two censors may be relied upon to draw attention to any war films which cast any reflection upon our soldiers or which grossly misrepresent war events or conditions. Such films could be refused registration and their importation into the Commonwealth prohibited, if it were considered that they were likely to be offensive to the people of the British Empire or any friendly nation or depicted any matter the exhibition of which was undesirable in the public interest.

"It is considered by the Department that the existing personnel of the film censorship is quite capable of satisfactorily dealing with the type of film under notice, without the augmentation suggested by the League."

February 27, 1931

The Listening Post
The R.S.L. and the National Crisis
Colonel Collett Gives a Lead

Considerable interest had been taken in the projected discussion by the State Executive of the following motion carried at a recent meeting of members of the Western Australian section of the Flying Corps Association:

"That this meeting of ex-members of the Australian Flying Corps, with other comrades of the Australian Imperial Forces, regard the present financial situation and methods of government in Australia with very grave concern, and urge the State Executive of the Returned Soldiers' League to summon urgently a convention of representatives of sub-branches and unit associations for the purpose of (1) considering what action should be taken to re-establish the economic conditions of the country; (2) to safeguard our good name and honour abroad; and (3) to secure the maintenance of Australia within the Empire."

Colonel Collett said that the resolution came before the executive "with a certain atmosphere surrounding it." He had given the matter consideration and desired to make his views on the broad aspects of the question known to the meeting. Colonel Collett then said:

"With reference to the motion received from the Flying Corps Association, I might point out that the organisation is not a sub-branch of this league. Nevertheless, as all of its members took part in the Great War, and many of them wear our badge, their opinions are deserving of our most earnest consideration. As regards the social condition of Australia to-day, any ex-service man in enunciating his views thereon must bear in mind, and be guided by the fact, that he is, firstly and lastly, a citizen and a shareholder in the Commonwealth."

"If I correctly understand the spirit of the Constitution of the League it postulates loyalty to the Crown and the maintenance of Australia within the British Empire. It implies a faith in our system of popular government, and adheres to the principle of improving that system by evolution in thought amongst the people themselves."

"We are pledged to the preservation of the Constitution which has been enacted by the electors, and we have to admit the value of, and assist to uphold, such liberal and just laws as are intended to discipline the populace and guide it in its daily life and strivings towards universal happiness. We agree that the proof of the success of a majority government is in its efforts on behalf of, and the condition of contentment of, the minority.

"Speaking for myself, I would deprecate any form of personal dictatorship. To revert to it would savour of barbarism and lack of enlightenment. In its train would follow many hardships and abuses of power, the mention of which is now only to be found in the pages of history. Government by commission exists to-day. Cabinet is the Commission appointed by Parliament, and Parliament is its adviser. Parliament should be its only adviser. I do not propose to go into the question of whether or not our legislative bodies are too numerous or too large. I certainly think they are too costly, and—here is the pity of it—that they are losing touch with the people who constituted them, and for whose benefit they primarily exist. Parties within the councils of the land are inevitable, but it is intended that they shall represent only the divergence of opinion upon any given subject. Without that divergence of opinion facts cannot be elicited, faults distinguished, nor the benefits of adaptation and compromise utilised to produce the useful mean.

"The plight of Australia to-day is most distressing. None of us ever expected to find the country in such dire straits, and in searching around for causes we shall not have far to go, for the reason that we as the people are ourselves largely to blame. Hitherto we have not prized the liberty so hardly won by our forefathers; we have handed it over to others to use on our behalf, and, as a consequence, we have been beguiled and finally let down. The remedy lies at our hands. Let us interest ourselves in what is going on around us; let us use our intelligence and votes in the direction of restoring the supremacy of Parliament, the responsibility of Ministers, and the loyalty due by both to the men and women whom they should serve.

"We are ex-service men. We can still respond to the call of our country. We can influence 750,000 votes in Australia, and are still able to serve our fellow-citizens. We should set the lead in all things that involve patriotism and community effort. In other words, let us meet the task presented to us—maintain
our courage, and restore to ourselves that infinite faith and pride in the Commonwealth which we possessed in the war years.

"And, lastly, I would remind you that the job is not ours alone. There is a strong call to every public organisation and every citizen of all sections of the community. The individual's very future is at stake. The moral danger today is greater even than the physical danger of 1914-18, and, if that is thoroughly appreciated, then (to paraphrase a little) "if winter is here, can spring be far away?"

Mr. E. M. H. Farquharson led off the debate with a spirited attack on the party government system. While agreeing with every word of Colonel Collett's statement, he thought at the present time the country was looking to the league as one of the largest and most influential non-partisan bodies in Australia to set a lead. He was not one of that type of fools who would rush in where angels feared to tread, and would not attempt to give the reason for the existing crisis, but he did think that a great majority of the public agreed that one of the causes preventing a return to prosperity was the present position of party government. He knew as well as anyone present that the league had carefully refrained from entering into party politics, but he considered that the proposal he would put forward would overcome the difficulty. He made it clear that the suggestion did not mean the league's entrance into party politics, but that it should use its power and organisation to give the people the lead they required. He did not blame individual party politicians, many of whom were ideal men, but any man entering party politics was forced to sink his individuality, and was enveloped in the party machine, a system which was keeping many of the best men the country had out of politics to-day.

Mr. A. Yeates: You aim to create another party?

"I do not," Mr. Farquharson replied. He continued that individuals who tried to sway Parliament as independents had no hope whatever. If they established an organisation with the idea not of helping to keep one or two independent men in power, but to create a party of independents, with absolute freedom of thought and action, then it would be possible to get good government. His claim was that the league should create what he suggested might be called a Soldiers' and Citizens' League—the name was not his, he admitted. The league had the organisation in existence which would be capable of forming branches of the movement suggested, and when it was brought into working order the R.S.L. would cease to figure in the matter. Any attempt to create such a body without established organisation behind it must necessarily take a long time, whereas the matter called for the greatest urgency. He moved formally:

"That steps be immediately taken to form a Soldiers' and Citizens' League for the purpose—

1. Of assisting honest and capable men to contest all seats in the Federal and State Parliaments as a Party of Independents, such members to retain absolute freedom of thought and action, and

2. In every possible manner assist in protecting the loyalty and honour of Australia and other-

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Mr. E. W. Emundis said he was in accord with the mover's idea. He thought the public lacked a leader, and Mr. Farquharson's scheme, spread throughout Australia, would lead to something. So far as the public attitude was concerned, they looked to the league for a definite lead. The question was not political, but national, and it was the league's duty to set an example in national policy.

Mr. A. Yeates took a stand against the motion. He congratulated the president on his address. As soldiers they fought for the Constitution, which it was now suggested should be put out of existence. The Government was elected by a majority of the electors who were its masters. (Voices: "Are they?"). Any Government that refused to serve the electors who put it into power must soon go to the country, and he did not think that would be very long in happening. Undoubtedly the party system was open to attack, but the best brains of England had decided that the only way it could be dispensed with was by the creation of a new party. The more parties and organisations created to-day the more confusing became the position.

What they needed to do to-day, Mr. Yeates said, and he thought the league was doing it fairly well, was to instil into the people the conclusion that the present situation was but a passing phase. Colonel Collett said that they did not have to look far to see the causes of it. The past ten years had been a period of unexampled prosperity. With the end of the war Australia was one of the few countries that possessed a surplus of foodstuffs. Values soared to the heavens. We not only spent all the money we received, but borrowed up to the hilt on the strength of it. Values had slumped. Time had created the position, and time alone would solve it. They could only face the facts as they were, and before very long there must be a Parliament in power in Australia elected by the people which would have to face the facts. The facts could be sidestepped for a time, but ultimately they would accumulate until they became an insurmountable wall. He suggested they deprecate the proposal that they should give a lead, as suggested by the Flying Corps Association. The league must educate the people so that they would return a sane and sober government when the next election came along.

In reply, Mr. Farquharson said that if the party he suggested got into power it certainly could not be attacked as an unconstitutional Government. A party of independents—he meant the word party not in the accepted political sense—would, he contended, give the ideal democratic government. It had been said they should wait and see; the position would right itself, but anyone who gave any consideration to the matter realised that the position was dangerous. A crisis was reached, and we had to face the facts without allowing the position to get any further. We had to face the real possibility of revolution, and, God knew, no one wanted to see that in Australia.

The motion having been defeated by a substantial majority, Mr. R. E. Tyler submitted a further motion:

"That the league, being fully aware of the present position, does not consider the time opportune to become identified with any public views or any active steps, and that the president's statement be accepted as the views of the league and that the same be published."

He (Mr. Tyler) said that everybody knew of the resolution of the Flying Corps Association and waited to see how the league would show its hand. They had shown their accord with the president's statement, but they wanted the public to know that they realised the position and, if matters got worse, they might possibly have to take action, which at the present time, would be inopportune.

Colonel Olden considered that the public was already aware of the league's policy by the attention given to its activities for some years past. He admired greatly Colonel Collett's dignified utterance, but he thought that now was the time to be a little more definite, not physically, but emphasising the fact that at the present time they were ready to recognise the present position as one of national emergency and that the economic conditions to-day constituted a more serious situation than that of 1924, when parties coalesced for the general purpose of meeting a national emergency. Many thinking men were endeavouring to persuade the public to a realisation of that fact. He thought it was time that a big organised body like the league recognised the fact. He agreed with a good deal of what Mr. Farquharson had said. He thought they should be a little more definite in showing that they would welcome with the weight of the organisation behind them any movement which might tend, not to break down the present political system, but to meet existing economic conditions as constituting a national emergency as was done by political parties in the war period.

Mr. E. S. Watt feared that if they took action on the lines suggested by the Flying Corps Association and Mr. Farquharson they would not achieve the results promised. If he interpreted it rightly, there was a definite feeling in the league that they should not enter into the sphere of partisan politics. With a sane public, they got sane politics, and he thought that a saner public was developing to-day. For the league to take a determined stand as suggested he thought would mean the break-up of the organisation. There were men in the league who adhered to party politics as individuals, and they would leave the
THE MONTH

Sir W. Robertson on Politicians

Field-Marshal Sir William Robertson celebrated his 71st birthday last month. He is a big and vigorous man, both mentally and physically, and, in the course of a distinguished career, which he commenced as a cavalry trumpeter, he rose to be Chief of the Imperial General Staff. It is stated that he has done more and talked less than most men of his age. Recently he broke his customary silence and gave an interview his opinions on things in general. "It would be," he said, "inappropriate at a time of overwhelming taxation, with its consequent industrial depression and unprecedented unemployment, to say much about military affairs—which alone I have had special experience. I can only regret that so little progress has been made in so-called disarmament. Indeed, figures are frequently quoted to prove that armaments are greater now, not less, than they were a few years ago.

"Preparations are being made for another great conference next year; but progress is bound to be slow, and must await the development of a less suspicious and selfish spirit. Meanwhile, it seems that more progress would be made if the nations would not limit their attention to the political obstacles to be surmounted, but give their consideration to the scientific aspect of the problem. There are many ways of making it difficult to pass from peace to war conditions besides hoping to reduce the number of men, tanks and guns. I am thinking of chemical products and the part they play in the manufacture of war material. There should certainly be restrictions in this direction.

"During the war military chiefs were often accused by the politicians of being without imagination, and able to think of nothing except how to defeat the principal enemy. I suggest that the politicians of all parties might in the present and no less serious situation, take a leaf out of the soldiers' book and concentrate on how to reduce public expenditure.

"Those who ought to know declare that we are rapidly approaching a real calamity. If this is so, then everything should be subordinated to the one great essential—economy. The principle of concentrating on one supreme purpose which actuated the nation in the war remains the same in a really grave situation in peace.

"I suggest that in order to put things right three things are necessary:

"The first is that the miserable manœuvring for position among the politicians should cease, and that all parties should sink their political interests for the sake of the main object to be achieved. Secondly, a clear and definite lead is required. The country would respond as it did sixteen years ago. Thirdly, we should not be unduly materialistic in our efforts, but—to use an old-fashioned word—put into them a little religion now and again. Every head of a home can do his bit in the fight for real peace in this land."

Lord Haig Statue

Photographs of the second design for Earl Haig's statue have been reproduced in the English illustrated papers, and, as far as one can judge from a newspaper illustration, it is a decided improvement on its predecessor. It will be remembered that the first model submitted evoked a storm of adverse criticism. Lord Haig's friends considered that the figure was not sufficiently like the deceased general, nor was the horse the type of animal he would have ridden. One critic went so far as to say that the sculptor's conception of Lord Haig was like a Prussian on a cart horse. According to the London Daily Mail, the new model has also failed to please everybody. Lady Haig, who inspected Mr. A. F. Hardi-

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leagues. The league would not achieve very much, in his opinion, by calling a meeting as suggested. All sorts of meetings were being called by all sorts of people, and none got us very far. If the time came when the league was to move it would be when their backs were to the wall. But, personally, he thought they had reached the bottom of the valley, and that they were beginning to climb the other side.

If the time came ex-soldiers would be just the people who would be prepared to make a big sacrifice for their country. He thought Colonel Collett had adopted the right attitude. They could only progress in a sound British community by sound educational and evolutionary methods. In Western Australia in late years, particularly since Colonel Collett had become leader, the league had shown its ability to progress so far as public affairs were concerned. They had avoided the rocks of party. He thought they could fall when they were dangerously close to the rocks, and the policy failed lamentably. They could still lead as individuals in their particular spheres. Mr. Watt moved as an amendment:

"The Executive, while sharing the Australian Flying Corps Association's concern for national affairs, does not consider it at present advisable for the league to summon such a convention, and prefers to regard the president's statement, in all the circumstances, as the declaration of its viewpoint."

Seconding, Mr. I. T. Birtwistle said that the amendment set out the only safe course the league could take. He and Mr. Farquharson had recently been in the country districts, and the impressions of Mr. Farquharson apparently influenced him to a different point of view from his (the speaker's). The proposal that the league should favour the creation of any organisation was one which, however excellently intended, was bound to lead it into trouble and division. They had met during their tour farmers who were desperately in favour of certain political policies, but if the league favoured a party—and he defined anyone there to use any definition other than party—the league would cleave the unity on which it rested for its present progress, with the sword of party. They must not let the league take a stand which was bound to be misunderstood in the country and locally. Whatever name they bestowed on such an organisation it inevitably came down to party. He hoped the amendment would be carried so that they would be saved from something perilous to the league, and that in what the president had said would be found an affirmation of sound and definite policy. Mr. Watt's amendment was carried.
man's second model at the Houses of Parliament, is reported to have said afterwards:

"Definitely, I do not like the new model, and would much rather no statue should be erected at all than this new one. I think the bust is beautiful and wonderfully expressive of my husband, especially the sculpture of the eyes, but as far as the equestrian part of the model is concerned, I am sure my husband would have disliked to be represented in such a manner. The cloak is too theatrical for him."

Other protests have been voiced in many quarters, including one from Earl Jellicoe, the President of the British Legion, but it is unlikely that a third design will be called for. An official of the office of works told a Daily Mail reporter that the design has been approved by their assessors, and that the sculptor would begin work on the statue immediately.

It is a matter for regret that Earl Haig's memory cannot be perpetuated in a manner pleasing to all his friends and admirers. Possibly veneration for the man makes us all rather hypercritical of his effigy.

**Reserve Insurance Fund—War Service Homes**

Hereunder is a copy of a letter received from the Acting Minister for Transport:

"I am in receipt of yours of the 16th instant, conveying Resolution No. 187, adopted at the 15th Annual Congress of your League, which reads as under:

"That the War Service Homes Reserve Insurance Fund be placed on an interest bearing basis, to be utilised for the benefit of War Service Homes occupiers."

"Any surplus income earned by the Insurance Fund is paid to the Commonwealth Treasury to the credit of Consolidated Revenue, and is used by the Treasury in the ordinary way. The Commonwealth Treasurer has decided on several occasions that the Commission could not be permitted to establish a fund of the nature included in the resolution, and the balance therein employed to earn interest."

"With regard to the suggestion that interest on the surplus income should be utilised for the benefit of purchasers and borrowers, I would point out that the basis insurance rates charged by the Commission are 1/- per cent. for brick homes, and 3/- per cent. for timber homes, with an additional charge of 1/- for each certificate, in respect of each insurance certificate. Recently the risks were increased to include damage by explosion, thunderbolt, earthquake, riot, civil commotion, strikes, labour disturbances, burglary or housebreaking, including any attempt thereat, aircraft and bursting of boilers, hot water pipes, or heating apparatus, without any increase in the premiums. The acceptance of these additional risks by the Commission represented a substantial advantage to purchasers generally, and I regret it is not possible to increase the benefits under the Insurance Scheme or reduce the premiums."
Australia and pursued the elusive gold—finally to Larkinville until compelled by ill-health to seek medical advice.

With his death passes another of the courageous spirits who have spent their lives on the outposts of the Empire, willing to face dangers and hardships in its expansion in peace, and life in its protection in war. One of high courage and high ideals—a very gallant gentleman.

Phil. Geale, of the 16th Battalion, is about again, after his accident. Just before Christmas Phil stepped off the pavement in Murray Street, and caught the surgical boot his war wound compels him to wear, with the result that he fell and broke the sound leg. When not in town Phil works on his claim at Booraglie, and is proud of the fact that he has established himself there without any assistance from the Government.

Congratulations to Mr. A. E. Clare on his appointment as Principal Architect to the Workers' Homes Board. Mr. Clare served abroad with the 51st Batt., and was taken prisoner by the Germans at Mouquet arm.

Cliff. Gillett, we are happy to state, has recovered from his recent serious operation and is back again in harness at Bunbury. The boys of his sub-branch honoured him with a special social evening to celebrate his recovery, to which we give a hearty “cheerio!” Cliff is one of the best.

Mr. M. St. John Kennedy has happily recovered from his recent illness. He made his first public appearance, as far as League affairs are concerned, at the February meeting of the South Perth Sub-Branch.

Another South Perth convalescent is Mr. Hillary, who is one of the pioneers of League doings of the riverside suburb.

A stork—not one of Colonel Le Souef's charges—called at the residence of Mr. Anderson, of the South Perth Sub-Branch. As a result the Anderson establishment has been increased by one.

Cavalry in Action

BOHAIN—1918

(by Peter Hopegood)

Ahead of us, as furiously we dig
To fortify the quarter mile of mud
We've paid for with three hours' of blood and sweat,
We note a string of mounted men that trots

All merrily with rhythmic sweep of hooves,
Just like an episode thrown on the screen,
A private view—staged for our benefit
At Government expense: a cowboy film,
A woolly western drama. How absurd!
Just as they quicken to a cantor, see,
One rider tumbles from his saddle, then
Another falls, and lies there very still.
Then yet another manikin's unhorsed;
But, getting slowly to its feet once more,
Pursues all doggedly its crazy mount
That charges with the troop. All rhythmical,
Most weirdly rhythmical, the movements seem.

They hesitate. They're coming back pell-mell.
Saddles are emptied right and left. But soon
They're out of sight behind a friendly rise,
And, all that's left amid a swirl of dust
Is one poor troop-horse, hobbling on three legs,
The other dangling useless, and some blobs
Of bay and khaki that lie very still
Upon the shoulder of a barren down.
Ah well! We'll have to do that job ourselves.

But isn't it absurd? It's blasphemous
To think some monkey in a field-grey coat
Can sit upon it damned Westphalian hams
Grinding the handle of an emma-gee
And dish out death like strings of sausages
To creatures full of pride and love of life,
A yahoo squirting death at howhynums
It isn't really fit to valet. Oh,
The world's, a shop and soldiering's a thing
They teach at correspondence schools.

My God,
Now wouldn't that have made Pendragon puke?

"Charge, Chester, charge!"
Says, how much shall we charge
To cover war's expense? It's ruinous,
They tell me. And how much can be wrung out
Of life for breach of promise? Tell me that!
And then we'll let you know, Jack, what we'll charge.

Hello, what's up? The whole line wheels about,
Within a few yards of a sump-hole where
A boche M.G. team can be plainly seen.
(No, we can't interfere—at least, not yet.)
The Diggers' Business Directory

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<tr>
<td>CORLETT BROS.</td>
<td>Repairs and Overhauls to Motor Cars and Trucks</td>
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<td>(Fred Corlett, late 16th Btn. A.I.F.)</td>
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<td>(A few doors West of Melbourne Road)</td>
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<th>PATRONISE</th>
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<td>'DAD' FANNING'S</td>
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<td>(Late 46th Batt.)</td>
<td>MERCERY,</td>
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<td>and A. A. FANNING</td>
<td>TAILORING,</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Late 10th Light Horse)</td>
<td>DRAPERY,</td>
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<td>FRUIT BARROW</td>
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<tr>
<td>stationed in front of Commonwealth Bank, in FORREST PLACE, Perth, where he sells the Best of Fruit at THE LOWEST-PRICES</td>
<td>HAY STREET, PERTH</td>
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<td>(Opp. Tour's)</td>
<td>(Opp. Wesley Church)</td>
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<td>M. E. ZEFFERT - Man. Director</td>
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<th>FRENCH'S BOOT SHOP</th>
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<td>JACK LUNNY</td>
<td>FRUIT &amp; CONFECTIONERY</td>
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<td>Proprietor</td>
<td>Wholesale and Retail</td>
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<td>(Late A.I.F.)</td>
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<td>ALL CLASSES BOOTS &amp; SHOES MADE TO ORDER</td>
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<td>Secure your Fruit Supply from,</td>
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<td>In front of East End Booms Ltd.</td>
<td>When in Town Visit</td>
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<td>WELLINGTON ST., PERTH</td>
<td>CON O'BRIEN</td>
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<td>(Late 11th Batt.)</td>
<td>(Late 28th Batt., A.I.F.)</td>
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<td>WILLIAM ST., PERTH</td>
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DIGGERS! YOU ASK FOR PREFERENCE! GIVE IT
VARIA

Writing in the Empire Review, Field-Marshall Sir Claude Jacob expresses, in no measured terms, his opinion of the proposed Indianisation of the Indian Army. "All of us who have had experience of. long service' with Indian troops," he writes, "know perfectly well that Indianisation and efficiency will not go together." Take away British officers and the door will be open to corruption in all forms.

An English contemporary states that brunettes are less susceptible to colds than blondes. The 'flu germs are evidently gentlemen.

The V.C. won by Boatswain Henry Cooper, R.N., for a landing in the Crimea in 1855, was sold by auction in London, for £45.

The strength of the British Territorial Army is now 6,531 officers and 127,282 other ranks—a decrease of 85 officers and 1,785 other ranks compared with a year ago.

A health specialist says that pork and beans are rich in vitamins. But the trouble with the little beggars is that they eat the pork before you get time to open the tin.

Jim Whitten writes about Art Unions:

Most people will agree with the Rev. Eric Nye that the care of the sick and the noble professions of doctoring and nursing should not be dependant on games of chance. At the same time the trouble with some men like Mr. Nye is that they want to make us all saints before our time. I do not feel that I am damned when I buy a ticket in a sweep even if I say so when I see the results.

There is no doubt that there are far too many small art unions being run in W.A. Country shows are the happy hunting grounds of the raffle and art union fiends who pester everyone they meet.

The other day, while having a quiet spot with a friend and trying to forget the depression, a smiling Hebe brought out a book of tickets in aid of destitute drunks, or something equally deserving. I once was induced to hawk around one of these art union books, but after asking Davie Benson to take a ticket, well—"Quoth the raven, 'nevermore'."

For some time now negotiations have been proceeding to assist soldier dairy farmers in the South-West to secure fertiliser supplies for top-dressing. Mrs. A. Yeates, chairman of the R.S.L. land committee, announced at the executive meeting on Wednesday last that he expected to hear very shortly that the proceedings had been finalised and that South-West dairy farmers would be able to secure fertiliser supplies through the butter factories with repayment spread over the four flush months. Mr. McLarty, the general manager of the Agricultural Bank, had been active in the soldiers' interest, as the bank this year was not in a financial position to assist with advances.

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Men's Athletic SINGLETs. A big bargain in a superior rib, knit cotton, at less than half price—1/4.

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Moracam BATHERS, perfect in shape, material and weave. The price makes it a big bargain—14/9

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Superior Treble Twisted GUT LINES: Garfish, 9d.; Whiting, 1/-

Gutted HOOKS; garfish, herring, whiting. bream sizes. 10d. pkt. of 12

Heavy Steel Groper and Schnapper HOOKS, 10d. to 2/3 dozen

Shark HOOKS, 1/- each.

"Platypus" Razors, 2/3

Platypus RAZORS, hollow ground, thin blade, xylo. handle, 2/3

HAIR CLIPPERS, with 2 extra combs, 3/6

Men's Nickel WATCHES, 2/11

Barbers SCISSORS, 2/11

Bairds Concession Prices in W.A. Groceries Make Certain Savings
Correspondence in a recent issue of the *London Times* contains suggestions for alterations to the National Anthem. One writer says:

"I beg leave to proclaim my uncompromising loyalty in another alternative verse:

O Lord our God, arise,
Guard our securities,
Scatter all party hacks,
Don't let them fall,
(Save those my party backs),
And make the income-tax
Optional.

"The last word, sung 'Op-shee-un-all,' would be very effective."*

British officers have always found it very difficult, if not altogether impossible, to live on their army pay. To overcome this difficulty, which prevented many good men from rising from the ranks, the rates of pay were materially increased after the Armistice. Now, by an almost incredible act of hypocrisy on the part of the British Government, the standard rates of pay, half-pay, and retired pay of Army officers are to be subjected to a reduction of eight per cent, instead of seven per cent, from July 1st next to June 30th, 1933, on account of the reduced cost of living.

They do things rather tactlessly in distressed Malta. It seems that capers, which form part of the authorised dress of boiled mutton, grow well on the island, and in part of the Government House Gardens, devoted to their cultivation, someone has put up the notice: "No one is allowed to cut capers here, except His Excellency."

The war tank, which has stood in British Museum Square for the last ten years, has been sold by the Holborn Borough Works Committee for £41.

The conference of the Yorkshire area of the British Legion adopted a resolution that Armistice Day, November 11th, should be observed as a bank holiday.

"Pip Tok" writes: The adverse criticism of the models for Earl Haig's statue remind me that similar controversies raged over the statues of both Nelson and Wellington. Nelson's statue was objected to, as it was placed in a more prominent position than those of certain deceased kings. In Wellington's case it was thought that the sculptor had made the Iron Duke too stout. Thomas Hood, the incorrigible punster, who may be regarded as the father of topical verse, as far as English journalism is concerned, appreciated both situations in two of his incomparable epigrams:

1. On the Arrangement of the Statues in Trafalgar Square.

If Nelson looks down on a couple of kings,
However it pleases the Loyals;
"Tis after the fashion of nautical things,
A sky-scraper over the Royals.

II. On a Certain Equestrian Statue.

Whoever has looked upon Wellington's breast,
Knows well that he is not so full in the chest;
But the sculptor, to humour the Londoners partial,
Has turn'd the lean Duke to a plump City Marshal.

Restriction of Aliens

The following is a copy of a letter received by the League from the Secretary, Prime Minister's Department:

"With reference to your letter of the 8th December, in which was conveyed a resolution carried at the 15th Annual Congress of the League, urging that the admission of aliens to the Commonwealth should be restricted to a per capita quota of the States concerned, I am directed to inform you that the matter of alien immigration has been given careful consideration by the Government, and that steps have been taken with a view to effecting a considerable check on alien immigration into Australia during the year 1931."

Economic Questions

"Bob Shingle" writes:

May I, as a primary producer, who feels the pinch first and last, point out a few of the evils that have caused the present situation. Most people, nowadays, live entirely for pleasure instead of providing for the future to which their children are entitled. Hang the cost. The child can battle for himself, and there is still the Old Age Pension and the Old Men's Home for dad, should his progeny return the compliment in his old age. There is no false pride about sponging on the public or loafering on public works. The people have been supporting America's motor car and film industry, and buying petrol from the other side of the world, to run cars for pleasure.

We are over-governed, and the overhead expenses of government are too great. State-Governors are expensive figureheads. The poor man, or rather his wife, expects to enjoy the same pleasure as richer neighbours. Even girls contemplating matrimony demand a motor car as a deposit. Jack claims to be as good as his master, but, will not produce any evidence in the form of energy or brain-power to support this claim. Too many people are trying to do their neighbours instead of trying to do their jobs, and earn the wages they demand. It is no use winning the war if one is not patriotic at home. The basic wage raised an incompetent man to the level of the skilled worker. Unionism is all right to protect the worker, but it has gone to extremes. Wages must depend on the markets, allowing
a margin for profits. The reduction in the price of wool is due to the shops hanging on to their goods, to the middle-men trying to make unfair profits. People buy less and the primary producer suffers. The primary producer is also unfortunate in that the goods he sells are perishable, so that he has to sell at whatever price is offered. He can control some lines, such as wheat and potatoes, by sowing only enough for seed next crop. Wool, fruit, and butter are lines that cannot be controlled in this way. One day the worm will turn and people will go hungry for a change, or else pay dearly for imports. A reduction in wages and prices in proportion is merely tinkering with the matter. We must economise on pleasures and luxuries imported from other countries, and sell them all we can to get our money back.

It was a mistake to place immigrants on the land instead of encouraging Australians, and a bigger mistake to buy out revenue-producing farmer at a big price to replace him by a soldier, who should have been given improved land to enable him to advance Australia, as I have done.

"D.C.M." writes from Laverton:

I read with interest the views on party politics by "Rough but Honest" ("L.P.", 23/1/31). He correctly states contributory causes to the depression—low values for primary products, etc. We could safely add a few others—importation of motor cars, trucks, petrol, etc., sending millions of pounds abroad for the benefit of other manufacturing countries. The latter blow guillotined the farmer for sale of chaff, oats, bran, which would have had a definite market if vehicular traffic still remained in existence; threw hundreds of employees off farms through tractor and motor competition; displaced thousands off pastoral leases, brought huge losses on our national railways; and further dislodged individual human labour in every industry. To-day blacksmiths, teamsters, cab and dray drivers, horsemen, saddle and harness makers—people directly and indirectly allied to the horse through various trades—have become extinct. Horse breeding is a thing of the past in some States. Thousands of these animals have been wilfully destroyed as an encumbrance over the years since the advent of the motor age, and huge numbers have been destroyed to my own personal knowledge in the pastoral areas of W.A. Imported stallions and mares bought as an asset have become, through their progeny, a burden on the pastoralist, and are destroyed at a small price per head in unlimited numbers, whilst seeking water at the various wells. The mechanical world has governed the position detrimentally to the farmer, trader, and pastoralist. The only benefit accruing from the importation of petrol machines to Australia is a huge loss of money overseas, competition, and unemployment on a large scale. Again, I agree these are some of the contributory causes allied with others. The political party system of government, has failed completely, the experiment having proved costly to the nation, leading to friction and class hatred, as witness a quiet country town before an election. Supporters of any party candidate become embittered in their business relationships, often ending in fights, defamation, and a coolness for months after. The same thing applies to families. The people are embroiled against each other, and it is not unfair to them to depose those in charge of the government benches, by a swing of the political pendulum. The late government are the opposition critics, and the game goes on indefinitely.

From 1918 to 1929 Australia revelled in a borrowing campaign. Every government, State and Federal, seemed to vie with the other in obtaining easy money. Statesmanship and sincerity became obscured. A world financial expert told them their true position. Over the long period of borrowing not a word of warning emanated from the politicians (who are the trustees of public money). Suddenly alarmed at the position, they crudely took the people into their confidence by developing a huge barrier tariff, taxing everything taxable, curtailing expenditure (except their own salaries slightly), promising impossible remedies. Why did these politicians of all brands refuse to utter a note of warning of the impending bankruptcy? Were they ignorant of it? If so, they were not worthy to represent the people. If they were aware of the position, by their silence, they were traitors to their trust. Twelve years they carried on heedlessly, but the Bulletin, for a large number of years, has warned the people of the aftermath of a reckless borrowing policy.

The R.S. League, by its Constitution, is non-political. This particular part of the Constitution should be scrapped like obsolete naval craft as useless and a hindrance to progress. Party politicians of all brands have tried, and succeeded, in keeping this organisation neutral, sacrificed in sympathy to their own political aims. The sacrifice is not made by love, but solely by fear of the influence it may yield. An insult to soldiers—claiming they were the finest fighting forces in the World War, but are not mentally fitted to represent their country throughout the legislative halls in time of peace. But who or what party could have excelled the late Government in bringing about the present chaos? Another dissolution is impeding, adding to the nightmare of useless expenditure. People are sick and tired of party wrangling, promises, and the call to produce more. The only direct remedy is an elective government; failing that, a soldiers' political party to keep the balance of self-seekers from juggling the country's finance, and an antidote to stabilise the confusion that at present exists in the individual elector's mind.

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VICTORIA HOUSE, ST. GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH
"NEW ECONOMIC LAMPS FOR OLD."
(By F. A. Law)

In continuing this series of articles, it had been my intention to touch briefly on the subject of "Interest" this month but, having received a number of letters commenting upon what has been said both by myself and other writers on this page, I have decided to make a few explanations upon points raised, together with a general survey of a few old and new economic theories.

First, it is essential to explain that economics is a most uncertain science. The theories upon which it stands are continually changing with progress, and the change is often rapid and complete. For instance, a few years ago Henry George and the land question were prominent in the attention they received from economists; to-day "Progress and Poverty" is not selling, attention having turned from the question of the ownership of land to the more pressing study of banking and finance.

A passing acquaintance with old and new economic theories does nobody any harm. Indeed, it is most certain that when everybody looks more searchingly into these factors which control our lives and our well being—not necessarily accepting as gospel everything printed by politically controlled newspapers—then so soon, by the casting of a more intelligent vote, will the pall of these things which oppress us, begin to lift.

We shall touch upon some of these theories in dealing with the points upon which information has been sought by some of my correspondents.

"T.P." wishes to know "by the application of what facts I am able to disprove the 'wages' fund theory' advanced by Mr. Keenan."

The simplest way of backing my assertion that the "wages' fund theory" is hopelessly incorrect would be to quote the generally accepted fact that all wealth is distributed through three channels, viz., wages, rent, and interest. Professor Shann, or any other economist, will support this. Therefore, it is perfectly obvious that wages may be increased simply by decreasing rent and interest.

Colonel Collett's Appeal for a Stronger League

We have been requested to print this appeal which was circulated amongst the Sub-Branches recently

In reviewing the present state of affairs in Australia the impression is borne upon me that now, more than ever, do we need a strong League.

In the past we have not been unsuccessful. A great deal has been achieved, and the satisfactory nature of the repatriation measures in force is a proof of sincere effort exerted on behalf of those who needed help.

But to-day, through events that have not been foreseen, we are compelled to face economic conditions which did not exist even in the years 1918-1919. Many of our comrades find their livelihood in jeopardy and others are even more unfortunately placed.

The community as a whole is hard pressed and has little inclination to devote time to our immediate interests.

It is incumbent upon us, therefore, to render mutual aid once more. To band together for our own and the common good, and to regard closely the welfare of the widow, the orphan, and the comrade fallen upon evil days.

We should be so firmly united as to be able to indicate, in no uncertain manner, any objection to an infringement of our rights and to be articulate in protest against a violation of our ideals.

Moreover, the members of this Branch have established for themselves the reputation of being experienced and level-headed men, fitted for and desirous of rendering public service. A steadying influence at this juncture would be of weight a great deal. We can more than justify our continued existence if we help actively in the direction of righting things and speeding the return of prosperity.

We are non-sectarian and free of party politics. We are unhampered in any way and our organisation is spread over the entire State. That being so, let every Sub-Branch (town and country), and every individual member of each Sub-Branch, set himself the task of increasing the membership—and therefore the power and usefulness—of the Western Australian Branch. Let us aim at 10,000 badge-wearers by June next.

I make this appeal most earnestly. I am convinced that it can be met, and I am certain of the benefits that will accrue. At our hands are the means to render again a great service to our country.

HERBERT B. COLETT,
President,
W.A. Branch R.S.I.
ever the amount of wealth recoverable and vice-versa. To suppose that before from industry was distributed a given quantity was already earmarked "wages," is not reasonable, and to suggest that the amount to be passed through each distributing channel was definitely fixed by some inexorable economic law is really absurd.

Another writer ("T.J.C.") has asked my opinion on the possible effects of inflation.

While it is very gratifying to find such interest taken in our "Economic Page" in the LISTENING POST, and not a little flattering to be asked an opinion on this vexed question, let me declare here and now any pretensions to a knowledge of economics. I can only express my very humble opinion for what it is worth, and what little I have to say about inflation is this: Most of the statements I have heard and read upon the subject have received their foundation from the "Quantity Theory of Money." This theory is that the prices of goods rise and fall with the quantity of money in existence; that is, if the quantity of money doubles, the price of goods doubles; if the quantity of money is halved, the price of goods is halved, and so on. It may be further illustrated as meaning that £1 may be only as good as 10/-, or it may be as good as £2, according to the quantity of money existing. Following the theory, an increase of the quantity of money is known as inflation, while a decrease is called deflation.

The effects of inflation—so far, as it is governed by this theory—can be instantly perceived, but an examination of this theory will prove that it is another of our old friends like the "wages" fund theory, and it falls to pieces under the weight of facts.

Speaking of it the Encyclopaedia Britannica says, "The controversies to which this theory has given rise are amongst the most celebrated in political economy, but it is definite that the Quantity Theory cannot be established by any appeal to facts." Such an assertion from such an authority would convince most people, but it would be as well to present one definite fact. I present the following: In the London Times, dated 3/5/30, we are told that "from 1919 to 1928 money facilities increased by 60 per cent., and trade by 25 per cent. According to the Quantity Theory, the wholesale price index should have risen by 28 1/2 per cent.; it actually fell 30 per cent."

On the reputation of the London Times, sufficient proof has thus been established, but as a further illustration, and coming closer home, let it be noted that from 1920 to 1930 no less than one hundred and forty millions of additional credits were issued by the Australian banks (see paragraph in Bank of New South Wales review for January, 1931), and against that wholesale prices have fallen. It must, therefore, be accepted that not the volume of money alone but numberless other factors enter into price levels, and thus my opinion is that a moderate and well controlled inflation would do infinitely more good than harm at the present juncture.

And now may I ask readers to review just briefly the suggestion recently made by Western Australia's first citizen as a means whereby we may get out of the present difficult position. He tells us that we should borrow more money. At the same time Sir James holds inflation in abhorrence, although I wonder why, for I have not yet discovered the difference between increasing the quantity of money by borrowing, and increasing the note issue, except that perhaps when you borrow you do so to the benefit of the owners of money, and these, of course, would get no benefit from a note issue, except a share in the general benefit. This is the position as I see it. Suppose we borrow a special amount—£10,000,000 at 6 per cent. (the popular interest figure these days) for the express purpose of assisting our farmers, and to be repaid in ten years. At the end of each year we have to pay, say, 1,000,000, according to the terms of the loan, plus 600,000 as interest. This means that when the loan has finally been repaid, we shall have had to pay at least £3,000,000 for the use of the money without considering flotation and incidental expenses at all. On the other hand, suppose we increase the note issue by a further £10,000,000.

After the outburst of indignation from High Finance had subsided, we shall probably find upon examining facts coldly that so far as inflation is concerned, exactly the same effect has resulted whether we borrow or increase the note issue; in both cases the quantity of money has increased by £10,000,000. In dealing with the repayment of the note issue, at the end of each year £1,000,000 would be withdrawn from circulation and destroyed, and at the end of ten years the issue would have been repaid and a credit of £10,000,000 would have been used by the nation free of interest.

An argument against the note issue would probably be that a weak government would, if hard pressed, fail to withdraw the notes as repayment became due, but, of course, a weak government, under the same conditions, would convert the loan. Same difference!

Let every patriotic Australian turn his face hard against further borrowing for years and years and years.

And the new economics I spoke of? Well, my time is up for this month, but I wonder if I could persuade another digger who wrote to me, to write for this page an article upon the "Douglas Social Credit proposals." Will you, please, Mr. W.?

In a review of Sir Ian Hamilton's Gallipoli Diary, the London Observer comments: "War is a frightful evil, as we all know, but how often one is left wondering, after reading first-rate war books such as this, whether politics are not even worse."
Women's Auxiliaries

The Listening Post

March 27, 1931

Women's Auxiliaries

SUBIACO

Subiaco R.S.L. Women's Auxiliary held their annual meeting on February 18th, when a satisfactory attendance gave proof of the interest of members in the work of their auxiliary. The Secretary's annual report gave evidence that the past year had been one of solid work, the prevailing depression being reflected in the number of cases assisted—meat, milk, and groceries, and, in several instances, outfits for new babies being supplied, as well as furniture and bedding. The two latter items were donated by members. The sum of £11 was donated, as is our annual custom, to the Soldiers' Trust Fund.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—President, Mrs. W. Richard-son; Vice-President, Mrs. J. Sands and Mrs. S. Roberts; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Blakemore; Treasurer, Mrs. Cottrill; Trustees: Messrs. Des-mond, Norvell, St. George; Visiting Committee: Messrs. Brown, Pringle, Sand; Auditors: Messrs. Desmonad and Opie; Publicity Officer, Mrs. Shand.

BAYSWATER

The monthly meeting was held in the Bayswater Hall, on March 12th. After formal business was transacted, supper was served and a social evening held. Mr. Hutchins was the prize winner in the competition. On Thursday, March 26th, a social gathering will take place in the hall, the main purpose of which will be to wish "Bon Voyage" to a lady member, who is leaving for England. All members are urged to attend.

STATE EXECUTIVE

Members of the above met for the first time this year since going into recess on Monday, February 16th, at the Soldiers' Institute, Perth, at 2:30 p.m. On this occasion delegates had been invited from other auxiliaries, and the following branches were represented:—Bassendean, Bayswater, Belmont, Fremantle, Hamilton Hill, Kelmscott, Leederville, Maylands, Spearwood, Perth, North Perth, Victoria Park and Mt. Helena.

Arrangements were finalized for the annual meeting, held on February 24th, when the Rural Science Students were entertained; also for the Annual Auxiliary Picnic, which was held on March 14th. On this occasion it was decided that we should go to Caversham House, and we all enjoyed a very pleasant afternoon. Mrs. T. C. Wilson, State President, kindly threw open her place to us, and among the attractions were tennis, swimming, billiards, etc; also we could visit the drying sheds, etc. Buses conveyed members from Perth at 1:45 p.m., returning in the evening.

Various matters of interest to branches were discussed and afternoon tea was served. At 4 o'clock delegates went their various ways, and the usual meeting was held and got through as speedily as possible.

UNITED AUXILIARIES' SOCIAL

On February the 24th, at 8 p.m., at the Soldiers' Institute, Perth, the quarterly social was held. There was a good attendance. On this occasion, the students of the Rural Science Course were entertained, and were welcomed by Mrs. T. C. Wilson (State President). The programme included games, dancing, competitions, musical items, etc.

Mrs. Wilson's welcome was responded to by Mrs. Mary Farrelly (the Students' "Mother"), who expressed her appreciation at meeting such a large gathering of R.S.L. Auxiliary Members, and was supported by two other students.

The winner of the competition was Mrs. Ingle, and Mrs. C. Moore won the "Lucky Spot" prize. Medals were awarded to Bull, Hopkerton, Marshall, and T. Tandy, Misses Sams, Tassel and Joan Gillard, and Misses Marshall and Hopkerton were among the artists. Medals Power and H. D. were the accompanists, and the orchestra was composed of Medies Proust and Daw, and Mrs. Proud.

Bayswater supplied the competition and games, Mrs. K. Hopkerton (State Secretary) arranged the musical items, and the supper arrangements were carried out admirably by the Mount Hawthorn Auxiliary. A very enjoyable evening was spent by all, and many are looking forward to the next United Social.

VICTORIA PARK

Members of the above held their first general meeting since going into recess, at the Library Hall, Victoria Park, on Friday evening, the 27th February. Business was got through as briskly as possible, and was followed by a social to which the members of the local sub-branch were invited, and was supported by two other students.

A very pleasant evening was spent with dancing, games, and musical items, the following artists giving their services:—Mrs. Orway (song), Mr. Hayes (songs), Mr. Hayes and Mr. Brophy (dancing), Misses Brophy and Mrs. Jordan were the accompanists. Misses Mathews acted as M.C., and supper was served by the ladies' committee.

A pair of ducks were disposed of to help defray the expenses of the hall, and were won by Mrs. Mathews.

The next general meeting will be held on March 27th, at the Library Hall, and will be followed by another social as soon as the business has been dealt with.

MT. HAWTHORN-NORTH

LEEDERVILLE

A gift afternoon in aid of local distress was organized by the above auxiliary, and held at 37 Anzac Road, Mr. Hawthorn, on March 4. The joint hostesses were Messeday Kay and Rowles. A pleasant afternoon was spent, and a dainty afternoon tea served. Many useful articles (mostly baby clothes) were received, which were greatly appreciated by the committee.

In order to raise funds the members of the auxiliary have decided to run a weekly card party, at the Broadway Lesser Hall, on Wednesday evenings, at 8 p.m. A very successful evening was spent on March 11th, which took the form of a euchre party, the prize winners being Mrs. Boland, Mrs. L. Mathews and Mrs. Ovens. Next week will be a whist evening, and euchre the next, and so on.

MT. HELENA

The Mt. Helena Women's Auxiliary of Mundaring and Districts Sub-Branch, report steady work for the year 1930. The branch was formed in October, 1929. Funds have been raised by local dances, a children's fancy dress ball, etc., also some good subscriptions came to hand. The sum of £ 110 has been handed over to the Sub-Branch for amelioration purposes. On February 7th, 1931, we gave the local children their annual picnic, from our auxiliary funds; the afternoon being of moderate temperature, all enjoyed themselves greatly. Murrow Rocks, our local swimming pool, was visited. An abundance of good things were provided, which they all did justice to. Each child received a present of 1s.

Poppy Day proved beyond our expectations, and we were well repaid by the hearty thanks of the local sub-branch.

The same president and secretary are again holding office for the ensuing year, with the addition of a new Treasurer. Medes Haylilin McGregor and S. Bentley are President and Treasurer, and Miss Mabel W. Boyes, is the Hon. Secretary.

Don't Fail to Read

"A DIGGER'S DIARY"

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32nd BATTALION ASSOCIATION

Chas. Beckley is leaving for the Old Country, and Bob Alexander had a "birthday." sq these two "old boys" of the Battalion joined hands and asked the Committee and a few odd cobbers to come along on the 19th to the R.S.L. rooms. Mrs. O'Connell catered in her usual style, and the guests enjoyed a splendid meal. Charlie Beckley asked the diners to "toast" the King, after which George Abjornsen got on his hind legs and made, some very pleasing references to the sterling qualities of the joint host.

In proposing their health, he wished the Beckley family bon voyage, and a safe return to Aussie Land.

John Bull ably seconded the toast, and the boys manfully drank from glasses filled to the brim. Musical honours were accorded the hosts.

Captain Edmonds, of the Imperial Association, was an honoured guest, and told us a few pleasant things about the spats which animated the 32nd Battalion Association, evidenced by the splendid way in which the old "Chocs" rallied to every function or gathering.

Colonel Flintoff, Messrs. Lobachers, Junner, Johnson, and others spoke about one thing and another, more or less "thickly," according to amount of beer consumed at the time of speaking.

Wal. Flindell told some fine "bedtime" stories, and also ably responded to Captain Edmonds remarks. Committeeman Trumble was in excellent voice, and gave us some splendid songs, leading the choruses with great "dash." Everybody sang, told yarns, or talked, and Bob Alexander and Kennedy, Jock Martin, Clarrie Martin, and Pearse were in everything that was going. The writer saw no one carried out, and everybody wended their way home very happily after a really successful evening.

BRITISH UNITED SERVICES ASSOCIATION

The R.U.S.A. will hold a dance-social at the R.S.L. Headquarters, Perth, on Friday, April 10th, at 8 p.m. The 1931 season was opened on March 13th with a very fine attendance. A most happy and enjoyable evening was spent. We commend these monthly Imperial re-unions to the folk from the "Old Country." The atmosphere is "home from home," and a welcome is assured.

Imperial ex-service men and women are invited to foregather in St. George's Terrace on the forenoon of Anzac Day, to take part in the parade, march, and services in the metropolitan area. The place will be marked by the sign of the "Union Jack." Last year was a record muster, three platoons; we hope to see this year four or even more. In memory of the fallen from the 29th Division, fall in.

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NORTH PERTH

The annual meeting of the sub-branch was held last month. After dealing with the auditor's report and balance sheet, which disclosed a satisfactory state of affairs in spite of the depression, the president's, treasurer and secretary's reports, the election of officers for the ensuing year took place. The following were elected:—President, P. Cain (unopposed); secretary, V. O'Grady (unopposed); vice-presidents, R. H. Alderson and W. Deeving; treasurer, A. H. Haynes; executive committee, E. Bower, P. Bull, R. Kinah, E. Lenell, W. Lewis, and A. Wilson; auditor, P. Wilks.

A large number of applications were dealt with by the Distress Committee during the year, when a sum of £206 19s. 3d. was distributed in relief. The president, secretary and a number of the members of the sister sub-branch in Kalgoorlie were present and received a hearty welcome. At the close of the meeting refreshments were handed round.

There is no doubt that the discovery of the "Golden Eagle" nugget has attracted large numbers of men to the goldfields in search of employment, but, although the gold bonus is now an established fact, there has been very little additional employment as a result, and hundreds of men are at present vainly seeking for employment in the various mines. Many of these men would be in a very sorry plight were it not for the soup kitchen recently opened in Boulder. The president, Mr. Cain, who was mainly responsible for the formation of this committee, to control this organisation, is deserving of every credit for his efforts on behalf of the unemployed. Between 60 and 70 men, as well as several families, are now being provided with a decent meal daily.

Mr. P. Bull and his capable committee are to be commended for the very fine manner in which the kitchen is controlled, and one cannot but be impressed with the cleanliness prevalent everywhere.

BOULDER

The sub-branch picnic, which was held during February, reached almost beyond the expectations of the most sanguine. The whole day was one of a great social success, and many good things were relished with great gusto—ask the nippers!

The March meeting was held at the usual meeting place, Rosemount Hall, and a long evening of very interesting business transacted. The meetings of late are becoming more interesting, lectures are arranged, and games inaugurated, and it is thought that another meeting might well have to be arranged for the purpose of social activities, etc. Funds have been instituted, and methods of raising them, for those who, owing to the present circumstances, are unable to be financial, so it is requested that all those who are effected will not keep away from our activities.

Imperial Printing Co. Ltd.
Perth's Particular Printers Returned Soldiers

Personal—Will contributors to the Women's Auxiliary page of the "Listening Post" please note that the Assistant Secretary's address is: Mrs. Coleman, 2 Oswald Street, Victoria Park, as letters are apt to get delayed through being wrongly addressed.
MORNINGTON MILLS

The following officers were elected for the ensuing term at the annual meeting:

President: Mr. A. Mackie; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. C. E. Louden and W. Taylor; Honorary Secretary: Mr. S. Wilson; Social Committee: Messrs. Styles, Shida, Turner, Hetherington, Armstrong, Fulton, and Matthews; Distress Committee: Messrs. Fulton, Turner, and Louden.

ANNUP

The usual monthly meeting of the above branch was held on Thursday, 19th February, and considering the scattered district, and the inability of outlying members to visit town during the week, a good attendance resulted.

Many items relating to the welfare of the returned men of the district were discussed, the matter of joining up with the Bridgetown District Council being held over till next meeting.

The branch President, Dr. Andrews, has taken up residence in Greenbushes, and before his departure, he was the guest of the branch at a farewell evening, which passed off in true dicker fashion. His loss will be felt greatly, for under his guidance and that of the energetic Secretary, Joe Rydings, the branch has increased its membership to 30. Bill Blyth has been elected President in his stead.

On Saturday, 21st February, representatives of the branch journeyed to Greenbushes, on the occasion of the visit of Messrs. Yeates and Ferguson from Executive. For the information of travellers passing through, the branch meets at the Road Board Hall on the third Thursday of each month, and all returned men will be heartily welcomed should they drop in for the evening.

YARLOOP

The monthly meeting was held on Thursday, 12th March. Those present were Messrs. A. Watson (President), N. Buchanan, and H. D. Hardy (Vice-Presidents), F. Trenaman, J. Pitts, L. Woodcock, G. H. Clifton, S. A. Hardy, Charlton, Sterritt, and W. Smith. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. L. Rogers, Mr. Charlton, acted as Secretary.

Correspondence dealing with the question of the re-opening of the War Service Homes Commission (a matter in which the sub-branch is keenly interested) was read and discussed. It seems evident that there is no hope of the Commission continuing its activities for the present, owing to lack of finance.

The minutes of the last meeting of the District Committee were read and approved. A resolution concerning unfinancial members, which was referred back to sub-branch, came in for considerable discussion. It was moved by Mr. Trenaman that, in the event of members who were financially unable (or financially not worth it) being asked to renew their current subscriptions owing to unemployment, the more fortunate members of the sub-branch should make themselves responsible for the payment of the subscriptions. The motion was carried unanimously. It is sincerely hoped that other sub-branches will, as far as possible, fall into line in this matter.

The question of the issue of sleeper-headers' licences on Crown Lands was also discussed, and it is understood that the Bunbury Sub-Banch have taken this matter up strenuously.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 9th April. A large attendance is requested, as the arrangements for Anzac Day will be finalised.

MUNDARING AND DISTRICTS

The general meeting was held at Mt. Helena. It was very pleasing to note that, despite the times, a good attendance was recorded; noteworthy, too, was the very keen spirit in which general discussions and debates upon matters which came up for serious consideration, for quite obviously the present period provides many problems for which earnest endeavours are necessary in order to meet them.

The campaign organised within the district to combat the distress caused by unemployment was initiated by this sub-branch, and, accepting the leadership, the citizens, generally, rallied to support the scheme. President Harry Walker and our amiable Secretary, A. MacGregor, were entrusted with the work of organising the campaign, and in justification of the public confidence in these two worthy diggers, they have accomplished a great deal. They have earned for the R.S.L. still greater respect and public admiration of its ideals.

Viewed from a very serious angle was the matter of the probable drastic cut of soldiers' pensions by the Federal Government. Reviewing the present efforts of the R.S.L. in past years in their endeavours, for not only did their diggers and their dependents, it would certainly be very disastrous to suffer any drastic amendment to the Act. Even if true that Australia must admit that some sacrifice must be made by all, let us have equality for a change. After a keen discussion, a motion was sent on to Executive expressing the views of this sub-branch.

A very pleasing duty befell Vice-President Jim Willhussen, in presenting a Past-President's Certificate to our worthy President Jim. Jim actually the father of this sub-branch, and its first president. Jim Willhussen must be congratulated upon the very able manner in which he carried out his job. Jim Scott felt the position keenly, and responded feelingly to the tributes of his old comrade. It is very gratifying to record that membership figures are on the up-grade again, and everything points to a very successful year, despite the depression.

Diggers, if you know of any eligible to join us all as well as we, then the time has come to want their support with the old spirit that kept us on top some years ago.

COTTESLOE BEACH

In conjunction with Spearwood and Claremont.
Cottesloe sub-branches, we held our annual picnic at the Zoo, on Sunday, March 1st, 1931.

Two boats were hired to convey the parties, and were filled to capacity, and there is little doubt that for our next picnic more accommodation will have to be provided.

The day was an outstanding success, the kiddies being well catered for with fruit, lemon, ice cream, and ginger beer. The diggers were not forgotten in the way of refreshments. The Committee responsible are to be congratulated on the thorough way in which arrangements were carried out, and Speargrass Sub-branch especially for the catering side of the affair. In the afternoon a sports programme was arranged, and every child of five years received a toy. The enjoyable day was brought to a close by the trip down the river and home.

Of the 11th of last month we played a friendly game of cricket with Nedlands Sub-Branch, and although we were beaten by an innings and three runs, all voted the day was thoroughly enjoyable. On Tuesday last we turned the tables on Nedlands in defeating them by two points in a miniature rifle shooting contest held at their headquarters. The shoot was keenly contested, the issue being in doubt until the final shot. On the 7th inst., we tried our hands at bowls, being the guests of the Cottesloe Beach Bowls Club, and although some of us were novices at the game, there was very little difference in the score cards at the finish.

Sub-Branch was proposed by Mr. Wilkins, of Subiaco, who made a very fine and humorous speech, his demonstration of sewing a button on being very well done. Mr. Ferguson responded on behalf of Mr. Lawley, and rose to great heights by climbing on a chair. The "Navy", Army and Air Force was proposed by Mr. J. McCullum Smith, who paid great tribute to the Trinity for the work performed in the Great War. Mr. J. Ferguson responded, and explained how well the volunteer system was going in W.A. "Our Guests" was in the capable hands of Col. Collent, and was responded to by Mr. Hunt, of the Perth Sub-Branch. The toast of the "Artists" was proposed by Mr. C. Sibclair, and seconded by Mr. C. Pascoe, in humorous vein.

During the evening, musical items were rendered by the Orchestra, Quartette Party, Mr. Buehanan (song), Mr. Dave Mackie (humorous), Mr. Len. Bucholz (cornet solo), Mr. J. Hayns, Mr. Harry Webster (humorous), and Mr. Bill Frew (very humorous). Mr. Cyril Bird acted as accompanist.

Points Noted

The surprise look on Col. Flitcroft's face when Mr. Wilkins wanted to know if he had left his badge in his other trousers.

Mr. McCallum Smith, after speaking for half-an-hour, explaining that he was not a fit and proper person to propose the toast.

Col. Flitcroft's story of Cleopatra had a distinct point.

The thread of Mr. Wilkins' story about a lady biting cotton was good.

Mr. C. Ferguson trying to rise to heights of oratory by climbing on a form.

The quartette party waiting for Mr. Hull to sing.

Two reformed Mr. Lawley diggers looking as if they enjoyed their ginger beer.

Mr. Wilkins' novel rendering of "For They Are Jolly Good Fellows," combined with a knees- bend exercise.

An odd-legged mess orderly not spilling a drop.

A certain member complaining that his colours were omitted from the decorations—the Pioneers. Mr. Bill Frew's recitation was a distinct hit at the heads.

CLAREMONT-COTTESLOE

The annual general meeting of this sub-branch was held at the W.A.'s Hall, Cottesloe, on March 5th last. Canon H. H. Harper occupied the chair in the absence of the President, Mr. C. F. J. North, M.L.A. A well attended gathering welcomed Captain Tozer of the State Executive. On the opening of the discussion of general business, a vote of hearty congratulations to the veteran Treasurer of the branch, Mr. S. V. Barwood, on his recovery from a very serious illness and operation was carried with acclamation. The balance sheet was presented and its report read by our able Secretary, Mr. A. G. Cook, who said he regretted to report the loss of one of our members, Mr. J. H. Ingram, late 9th Battalion. The position of the branch on the whole was satisfactory, and we have several new members. The amelioration fund had been hard hit, but we hope to assist all possible during the coming winter. After a brief outline of the activities of the branch during the past year, including the recent combined picnic to the Zoo, which had again been such a huge success, our Secretary reminded us of the near approach of Anzac Day and preliminary arrangements were then discussed, and it is hoped to repeat the success of last year. A vote of thanks to our hard working Secretary was then carried unanimously. Captain Tozer was then elected returning officer at the election of officers for the ensuing year, which resulted as follows: President, Mr. C. F. J. North, M.L.A. (second year); Vice-Presidents, Mr. G. W. Heath and Mr. S. W. Smith; Treasurer, Mr. S. V. Barwood (eleventh year); Secretary, Mr. A. G. Cook (fourth year). A feature of the election was the keenness of the voting for Vice-Presidents, no less than five members being nominated. During the social evening which followed, the toast of the newly-elected officers was duly honoured and acknowledged. A short address by Captain Tozer followed. It was an address delivered for the good of our souls and the welfare of the branch in general, and his kindly advice and friendly criticism were welcomed and appreciated by all. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2nd at the Council Chambers, Claremont. The prin-

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MT. LAWLEY

Mr. Lawley's Annual Smoko is always a good night out, but this year, on Saturday, March 7, they excelled themselves, and the impression was forgotten, for one night at least. In fact, "the President (Col. Flitcroft) said, in an opening speech, that the first man who mentioned depression in a speech would be counted out. Wallah's Hall was the venue, and was well filled, about 200 being present, and nearly all those who were present represented the hall, presented a gay appearance, being decorated with flags, and the colours of all units, while streamers and lanterns lent a festive air to the proceedings. The tables were tastily decorated with flowers and bottles, and greens of all descriptions.

Mr. Batey's Pipe Band opened the proceedings with some old marching tunes, and "La Marseillaise" and "Land of Hope and Freedom," receiving time to the music. After the toasts of the King and Fallen Comrades been honoured, the last post was sounded. The Quartette Party then rendered "Until," and earned an encore. Mr. A. Macnab proposed the toast of the R.S.L. and State Executive, and gave figures to prove that W.A. had a lot to thank a good executive for. Mrs. Parker responded in an able, if somewhat lengthy, manner. The Mt. Lawley are providers of the highest quality groceries at the lowest possible prices.

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cial business will be the preparations for Anzac Day.

VICTORIA PARK

There was a good attendance at the last meeting of the branch. Mr. H. R. Nicolls presided. The Secretary, Mr. W. G. Thomas, gave the members a splendid account of the work done by the branch. A large number of the members of the district were present at the meeting, and the Secretary reported that there had been a small balance, which was given to augment the social fund. Mr. Fred White, a "bus" proprietor in the district, as a mark of the Royal visit to the city, conveyed the party in his "bus", gratis. Mr. White is a member of the branch.

On February 17th the annual picnic of the branch was held at the Zoo, under the auspices of the Women's Auxiliary—about 130 children and 67 adults made the journey. Ice cream, fruit and soft drinks were distributed. Messrs. Bob Alexander and W. Colley contributed the ice cream. Mrs. Crow, President, and Mrs. R. M. Matthews, Secretary, are to be congratulated; also Mr. Matthews for the arrangements.

COLLIE

At a recent meeting of the Collie Sub-Branch, it was decided to give greater prominence to the social side, and to welcome the presence of womenfolk once a month. Among those present were visitors from Darkan, Allanson, and Cardifl. It was resolved that the Executive should meet once a fortnight and transact the usual business. Each month all members would be called together in the form of a general meeting, which, it was hoped, would develop into a social evening. As a sample of what the sub-branch can do on the side of entertainment, a number of songs, and other items were rendered by artists present. Humorous anecdotes also had much popularity, and Cardifl was well to the fore with "Horseferry Road," from Mr. Frank Crow, and the entertaining story of "Cock Robin," by Mr. Rube Pritchard. Community singing gave the boys the chance to sing out old favourites like "Mademoiselle," "Tippertop," and here Mr. Harry Howdrow's tuneful voice was heard to advantage. It was decided that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday, April 7th, and that the presence of ladies would be specially invited.

B RIDGETOWN

A very representative gathering of returned soldiers welcomed Colonel Denton (a member of the State Executive), and Mr. D. M. Benson, State, Secretary, to Bridgetown, on March 5th, and at the same time discussed with them matters affecting returned men in the district, and particularly the future of a District Committee. The sub-branches represented were Bridgetown, Balingup, Manjimup, Yarloop, Pemberton, Kirup, and Greenbushes.

The President of the local sub-branch (Mr. J. C. Morissey) presided. He stated that the proposed district committee would include seven or eight sub-branches, and, he felt, would be the means of bringing more diggers into the fold.

Mr. McBride (Balingup) said that the district committee, was formed in the first place to deal with soldier settlement disabilities in the South-West, because they considered the difficulties of such settlers greater than in any other part of the State, and their problems differed because in the wheat belt it was chiefly wheat and wool, while in the South-West it was chiefly perishable commodities, fruit and butter fat. The soldier settlement properties were very highly capitalised. They felt that by the formation of a district committee they could ably place the disabilities before the proper authorities, and in the direction of forming such a body, they hoped to obtain the support of the Executive. There was a certain dislike to settlers putting their cases individually. It was the desire of the district committee to place their case clearly before members of Parliament representing the districts, and also the Land Committee of the Executive. Many soldier settlers had struggled on for eight and ten years and then had to give up. The true value of the land was the earning capacity. They viewed the reduction of interest more in the light of repudiation, and sought to have the holdings revalued in lieu thereof.

Mr. Newton (Manjimup) supported the views put forward by Mr. McBride.

Mr. C. A. Shaw (Manjimup) said that on account of their geographical position, they were entitled to a district council, because it was unreasonable to expect the Northcliffe and Pemberton sub-branches, for instance, to be represented at meetings in Bunbury.

Colonel Denton, who is a member of the land committee, said that members of the Executive were imbued with the idea of duty to returned soldiers, and they were visiting the branches with the idea of learning just what the members sought. The Executive would at all times be ready to give consideration to the request made. They were facing grave conditions, and he felt that it was the policy of the Government to keep every man on the land. They were now fighting for representation on the Soldier Settlement Board, and he felt they were entitled to such representation, because they had a stake in the country; they fought for it, and should have fair and square consideration. When a legitimate case went before the Executive, they put their full weight behind it to see that justice was done.

Mr. Benson said that the Constitution of the League made provision for 4 district committees, but their work was restricted chiefly to social purposes and purely local problems. Until quite recently the Constitution met the demands in the State, but lately there was a feeling that more progress would be made if more district committees or councils were formed. The Management Committee had asked him, to put a report on the lines of a resolution at last Congress, and the report had been sent on to sub-branches for acceptance or otherwise. In that report the grouping of branches was on exactly similar lines as was suggested by the local committee. The proposed new grouping would make District No. 8 (Bridgetown) between Donnybrook, Bridgetown, Boyup Brook, Nannup, and Northcliffe. Bunbury district would have nine or ten sub-branches. He would give the opinion that soldier settlement had never been properly grappled with, and was never considered in a practical way until the soldier settlers met in 1921. The conditions then were deplorable. We are in a much better position than we were in 1921.

Bunbury, for instance, had two State and Federal Governments, and the then Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) had to admit that the position was desperate, but was informed that they, in Western Australia, were in a better position than the Eastern States settlers. The State Government supplied the land, and the Commonwealth the money. The Commonwealth allowed a 2½ per cent. concession interest, and on every $100 they said "You must pay us $87 10s." $68,000 was advanced to this State, and they were told it went to meet losses in sale and resale of soldier settlement blocks. After going to the Government again and again, W.A. received $1,492,000. The Land Committee of the Executive had dealt with numerous individual cases, and in every instance had met with courtesy and consideration from the Agricultural Bank officials. Today there were piles of applications for super, which had been granted, but held up because no money was available. Seventy-five per cent. of the wheat growers were in a bad way financially, but this position had not been brought about entirely this year. Last year some growers were offered $4 9s a bushel and refused to accept it, but took an advance of 2½ to 1½. These growers had not only lost this year, but last year too. The Land Committee had spent week and end after week-end going over soldier settlement's properties, obtaining full details, and later placing them before the Agricultural Bank. The settler who consistently paid a portion of his interest had a very good chance of having his values restored. The League was always ready to help a trial. The Executive wanted representation on the Soldier Settlement Board, which was only a fair request. All was well with the League, and the confidence in the Executive was State-wide.

Earlier in the evening Mr. Benson informed a questioner that, in connection with capital debt reduction, $3,900,000 had been written off.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Branch</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President and Address</th>
<th>Secretary and Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALBANY</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>3rd Tuesday, 6 p.m.</td>
<td>R. E. Potts, State School, Albany</td>
<td>F. W. Thorn, P.O. Box 34, Albany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUNBURY</td>
<td>Council Chambers</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday</td>
<td>C. R. Gillett, Burry St, Bunbury</td>
<td>A. E. Murray, Stephen St, Bunbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BELMONT</td>
<td>Belmont Hall</td>
<td>4th Tuesday</td>
<td>T. H. Sibbritt, Grandstand Rd, Belmont</td>
<td>J. J. Mann, Epsom Ave, Belmont</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAYSWATER</td>
<td>Town Hall, Bayswater</td>
<td>Alt. Wednesdays, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>D. Burton, King William St, Bayswater</td>
<td>R. B. Anderson, Roberts St, Bayswater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers' Hall</td>
<td>Tuesdays before pension day</td>
<td>A. E. Rolfe, Thronwell St, Collie</td>
<td>Hugh S. Cramer, Medic St, Collie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COWARAMUP</td>
<td>Cowaramup Institute</td>
<td>2nd Sunday, 2 p.m.</td>
<td>A. T. Cooke, Cowaramup</td>
<td>C. W. A. Lewis, Cowaramup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COTTESLOE BEACH</td>
<td>Town Hall</td>
<td>Last Wednesday in each month</td>
<td>G. Brown, &quot;Scotty,&quot; Fairlight St, Cottesloe Beach</td>
<td>Cowaramup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLAREMONT-COTTESLOE</td>
<td>Alternately Council Chambers, Claremont, and Wells Hall, Cottesloe</td>
<td>First Thursday in each month</td>
<td>B. L. Vinden, Kalamunda</td>
<td>W. M. Burrell, Cottesloe Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DARLING RANGE-DENMARK</td>
<td>Parish Hall, Kalamunda Institute, Denmark</td>
<td>3rd Saturday 1st Monday</td>
<td>Rev. J. Lawrence, Denmark</td>
<td>A. G. Cook, 12 Dalgety St, Cottesloe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DUMBLEYUNG</td>
<td>Dumbleyung</td>
<td>Quarterly, last Sunday</td>
<td>C. R. J. North, M.L.A., Forrest St, Cottesloe</td>
<td>H. G. Penrose, Kalamunda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOWAK</td>
<td>Salmon Gums, 1st Friday, Dowak, 1st Sunday</td>
<td>Every two months, alternate, commencing Salmon Gums Monday</td>
<td>L. A. Weeks, Dowak</td>
<td>W. S. Ferrier, Denmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREMANTLE AND DISTRICTS</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, South Terrace</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays (Pension Nights), 1st Monday</td>
<td>Theo. Brennan, Fortgall St., Fremantle</td>
<td>Gerald Andrews, Dowak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GASCOYNE</td>
<td>Gascoyne Hotel</td>
<td>1st Thursday, alt. months, commencing January</td>
<td>C. R. Cornish, Gascoyne Hotel</td>
<td>C. C. Walker, 132 Hampton Road, Fremantle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUILDFORD-BASSENDAEN</td>
<td>Council Chambers, Guildford</td>
<td>1st Thursday, other months, 2nd Tuesday</td>
<td>M. Lewis, Helena St. Guildford</td>
<td>W. J. Firmin, Gascoyne Hotel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GERALDTON</td>
<td>Town Hall, Bassendean</td>
<td>Last Tuesday</td>
<td>A. H. Salmon, Geraldton</td>
<td>H. L. Kirke, 46th Avenue, Bassendean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HARVEY</td>
<td>War Memorial Hall</td>
<td>Every 2nd Tuesday at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>T. W. D. Smith, Herbert Rd, Harvey</td>
<td>W. Bagshaw, Geraldton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KALGOORLIE</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute</td>
<td>Bi-monthly</td>
<td>C. D. A. Donaldson, 11 Hinemoa St, Kalgooilee</td>
<td>Alfred J. Knight, Harvey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KARRIDALE AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Soldiers' Memorial Institute</td>
<td>1st Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. P. Flanagan, 113 Oudana West, Kalgooilee</td>
<td>T. C. Fairley, 49 Campbell St., Kalgooilee Tel. 290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KELLERBERN AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Soldiers' Memorial Institute</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>G. L. Ogilvie, Kellerberri</td>
<td>Charles S. Smith, P.O., Karridale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KIMBERLEY</td>
<td>P.B.A. Room</td>
<td>1st Saturday</td>
<td>E. de B. Norman, Broome</td>
<td>Geo. W. Mann, Kellerberri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Derby rep., P. J. Graham and S. Waycott)</td>
<td>1st Monday</td>
<td>4th Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. Routh, Mallingup</td>
<td>A. B. Cryer, Broome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOJONUP</td>
<td>Memorial Hall, Kojonup</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>W. C. Chappell, Koobra</td>
<td>V. B. Sewall, Kojoner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOORDA</td>
<td>Commercial Room, Hotel</td>
<td>4th Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>J. Collinson, Lake Grace</td>
<td>L. J. Carter, Koorda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAKE GRACE</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>Friday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>E. Logan, Merredin</td>
<td>Dr. W. B. Fry, Lake Grace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MERREDIN</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>3rd Monday at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Dr. W. S. Mylne, Gardener St, Moora</td>
<td>P. A. Law, Merredin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT BARKER</td>
<td>Mt. Barker</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>P. P. Le Coss, Bencubbin</td>
<td>P. R. Gillam, c/o W.A.G.R., Mt. Barker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT MARSHALL</td>
<td>Road Board Hall, Bencubbin</td>
<td>Third Sunday, Dec., Mar., June, September</td>
<td>L. A. Hullett, 114 Guildford Rd, Bencubbin</td>
<td>S. N. McKenzie, Bencubbin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAYLANDS</td>
<td>Friendly Societies' Hall, Maylands</td>
<td>Alt. Wednesdays, 7.30 p.m. (not pension week)</td>
<td>H. Walker, Mt. Helena</td>
<td>A. Waddington, 6 Normaboy St, Maylands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MUNDARING AND DISTRICT</td>
<td>Alt. Mundaring and Mt. Helena</td>
<td>3rd Friday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>P. P. Le Coss, Bencubbin</td>
<td>A. J. McGregor, Mt. Helena</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### The Listening Post

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Branch</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President and Address</th>
<th>Secretary and Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIDLAND JUNCTION</td>
<td>Town Hall Committee Rm.</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>F. Bateson, c/o P.O.,</td>
<td>R. E. Marsh, Harold Road, Midland Junction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>Midland Junction</td>
<td>East Midland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOUNT LAWEY</td>
<td>Wallish Hall, Grosvenor Rd., Mt. Lawley</td>
<td></td>
<td>Col. T. Flinton, 3 Second Ave., Mt. Lawley</td>
<td>F. O. Fitzpatrick, 110 Fourth Ave., Mt. Lawley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MORNINGTON MILLS</td>
<td>Mornington Mills</td>
<td>Every Alt. Sunday</td>
<td>A. Mackie, Mornington Mills</td>
<td>G. Wilson, Mornington Mills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANNUP</td>
<td>Road Board Hall</td>
<td>3rd Thursday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. H. Blythe, Nannup</td>
<td>J. R. Ryding, Box 10, Nannup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEDLANDS</td>
<td>Broadway Theatre (Lower Hall)</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>J. Jones, Nedsland</td>
<td>W. A. O'Donnel, 51 Tyrrell St., Nedlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAMPTON</td>
<td></td>
<td>3rd Wednesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>K. J. Jones, M.C., Northampton</td>
<td>Rev. J. C. Lund, Northampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAM</td>
<td>Avon Bridge Hotel</td>
<td>1st Wednesday in the month at 8 p.m.</td>
<td>N. C. Scott, Northam</td>
<td>G. C. Cartwright, Fitzgerald St., Northam Tel. 174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH PERTH</td>
<td>Rosemount Hall, Fitzgerald Street</td>
<td>3rd Monday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>L. J. McDowell, 20 York St., North Perth</td>
<td>H. W. Riggs, 26 Elizabeth St., North Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUNGAJUN</td>
<td>Broadway Hall</td>
<td>1st Monday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>F. L. Warner, Red Forest, Kwalkan</td>
<td>L. W. Brockway, Nungarai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POPANYINNING</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>2nd Tuesday, 8 p.m.</td>
<td>W. F. S. E. Buchanan, Belmont</td>
<td>Geo. M. White, Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Office hours 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.)</td>
<td>At Lunchtime</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday, noon</td>
<td>C. P. Smith, c/o West Australia, Perth</td>
<td>L. T. Birtwistle, C/o The Western Mail, Perth Tel. B1158</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PITHARA</td>
<td>Billiard Saloon</td>
<td>Alternate Months, commencing Feb. 1, at 2.30 p.m.</td>
<td>W. E. Elston, Pithara</td>
<td>H. K. MacLean, East Pithara Tel. No. 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POPANYINNING</td>
<td>Yornanning and Popanyinning</td>
<td>1st Saturday in month, alternately</td>
<td>T. Cowan Yornanning, Ross A. King, Port Hedland</td>
<td>C. J. McGarrigal, Popanyinning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PILBARA</td>
<td>Port Hedland</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>R. B. Gibson, c/o W. J. Lovell</td>
<td>A. E. Clarke, Port Hedland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAILWAY WORKSHOPS</td>
<td>In the &quot;Mill&quot; at Works-</td>
<td>Alt. Tuesday, 12.15 p.m., from 22nd July</td>
<td>H. K. Kahan, 69 Douglas Ave, S. Perth</td>
<td>W. J. Lovell, 98 Sixth Ave, Maylands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH WEST</td>
<td>Masonic Hall, Cr. York and Forrest St.</td>
<td>3rd Monday</td>
<td>S. A. McNamara, Heytesbury Rd., Subiaco</td>
<td>M. A. Munro, Subiaco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH WEST</td>
<td>Branch Rooms, Rokeby Rd., Subiaco</td>
<td>Alternate Thursdays</td>
<td>S. Hamner Southern Cross, S. A. McNamara, Heytesbury Rd., Subiaco</td>
<td>T. S. Anderson, Southern Cross</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAMBELLUP</td>
<td>Mr. Marky's Residence</td>
<td>1st Wednesday</td>
<td>A. J. Smith, Tammellup, Padre O'Halleron, T. C. Thompson, Traying</td>
<td>A. I. Collins, Tammellup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOODYAY</td>
<td>Freemasons' Hotel</td>
<td>1st Wednesday in each month, 8 p.m., 4th Sunday</td>
<td>Tammellup, Padre O'Halleron, T. C. Thompson, Traying</td>
<td>W. W. Howie, Tammellup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRAYNING-YELBENI</td>
<td>Traying (2) Yelbeni (1)</td>
<td>3rd Friday in each month 8 p.m.</td>
<td>H. Nicol, 35 Miller Street, Victoria Park</td>
<td>F. N. Green, Yelbeni</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VICTORIA PARK</td>
<td>Library Hall, Albany Rd., Victoria Park</td>
<td>3rd Friday, 8.30 p.m.</td>
<td>V. Walker, Waroona</td>
<td>W. G. Thomas, 62 Temple St., Victoria Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Hair's Office</td>
<td>1st Monday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>R. E. Tyler, Rivervale</td>
<td>R. H. Roberts, Waroona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST PERTH</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>1st Thursday, 5 p.m.</td>
<td>J. Day, Buntine</td>
<td>P. L. Ross, Workers' Homes Board, Perth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WUBIN, BUNTINE, JIBBERIDING</td>
<td>Each place alt., commencing Buntine, March 1st</td>
<td>1st Sunday, 3 p.m.</td>
<td>C. W. R. Beechey, 4 Kerr St., Leederville</td>
<td>W. A. Cadwallader, Wubia Tel. No. 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST LEEDERVILLE</td>
<td>Town Hall, Cambridge St., Leederville</td>
<td>1st Monday, 7.30 p.m.</td>
<td>T. Sten, York</td>
<td>M. Dawson, 266 Railway Parade, W. Leederville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YORK</td>
<td></td>
<td>1st Saturday, Quarterly</td>
<td>T. Sten, York</td>
<td>L. Mahoney, York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**The Best Bar - Bar None**

**PLAISTOWE'S NEW WORLD CHOCOLATE BAR**
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICE MEN

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Association</th>
<th>Place of Meeting</th>
<th>Date of Meeting</th>
<th>President</th>
<th>Secretary</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUSTRALIAN FLYING CORPS ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Recce Price</td>
<td>T. A. Burns*, Hay St., Subiaco</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRITISH UNITED SERVICES ASSN.</td>
<td>Executive at 229 Charles St., North Perth</td>
<td>1st Monday, 8 p.m. (monthly)</td>
<td>A. H. Major, 153 Seventh Avenue, Maylands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BLINDED SOLDIERS' ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When necessary</td>
<td>Lt.-Col. J. E. D. Dunkley, 16 Angove St., N. Perth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELEVENTH BATTALION ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly Luncheon, 1 p.m. on 11th of month</td>
<td>W. Krugten, 79 St. Leonard's Avenue, Leederville</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EX-NAVAL MEN'S ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Sports Club, King St.</td>
<td>Last Tuesday</td>
<td>L. Kaye Perrin, 43 Douglas Av., S. Perth</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWENTY-EIGHTH BATTALION ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>Monthly Luncheon, 1 to 2 p.m., 21st of month or nearest weekday thereto</td>
<td>S. Jones, 120 Cambridge St., West-Leederville</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIXTEENTH BATTALION ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>General Meeting, October 21st, 1929</td>
<td>Colonel E. L. Margolina, Nederlands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THIRTY-SECOND BATTALION ASSN.</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>A. D. Stone, c/o West Australian Newspaper Office</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10th LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION</td>
<td>Soldiers' Institute, Perth</td>
<td>When called</td>
<td>Lt.-Col. A. H. Sweetapple, 49 Clifton Csw., Mt. Lawley</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Dinkum Aussie

We sometimes hear our men-folk's say, "They Dinkum Aussies are, That with the men of other lands, They guess they’re on a par, That they can proudly make the claim That THIS land gave them birth, And that it’s just the finest spot Existing on God’s earth."

If this is so, then, surely, should The Dinkum Aussie see That the running of his country In honest hands should be. Complaining of what others do Can never put things right, So let each be a patriot With heart and soul to fight— Not on the battle-field of war, But in the field of life, Servicing to hoist a standard new Of unity, not strife— A patriot, whose ideals are true, Not built of shifting sand, But strong with sense of brotherhood And visions for his land. The Dinkum Aussie holds the cards To deal, for good or ill; His country's future is assured If he dares but to WILL— That unity of purpose strong— And Nature's law fulfil. To strive to help his weaker friend, To cast out hate and greed, And build instead true comradeship, And feel each other's need, A nation's in the making, The book is open wide, It rests with Dinkum Aussies, What's the history that's inscribed. The Dinkum Aussie's land could be The fulcrum of the world; But it calls for valiant service To keep the flag unfurled; The flag that stands for heritage Of space and sunny skies, Neath which to build a monument Before the world to rise— And prove our standards fine and true, With fellowship to bind The people of a nation new In progress clear defined; Progress, that leaves no mark-behind To smirch a future fame, But adds, with each succeeding year, New honour to our name. —Ethel A. Waddi.

Preference Returned Soldier Chemists

At the last Federal Congress, the following resolution was carried:— That the Repatriation Commission be requested to give preference whenever practicable to Returned Soldier Chemists in dispensing prescriptions for pensioners, who are being treated at the expense of the Commission."

The Minister for Repatriation has replied as follows:—

"I appreciate the principle underlying this resolution, and would be pleased to see it observed whenever practicable.

"In the agreement entered into with the pharmacists throughout Australia by the Repatriation Commission it is provided that the ex-soldier patient is to have free choice of pharmacists. This point is also stressed in a recent amendment to instructions issued by the Commission for the guidance of Repatriation local medical officers.

"It will be seen, therefore, that the measure of preference extended, where practicable, to ex-soldier chemists rests with the ex-soldier patients themselves."
March 27, 1931

The Listening Post

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